Thursday, July 17, 2008 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 33 / No. 223 P28 www.inquirer.net

- **Adaza strikes back,** flies raps vs PNP chief Razon, others **NEWS** / A2
- **Gov't reports** P769-M budget surplus in June **BUSINESS** / B1
- **Go beyond french fries; 13 chefs whip** up new dishes like potoso 'bibingka,' potato 'pinangat,' and other 'Pinoy na Pinoy na potato' **LIFESTYLE** / D1
- **How GMA 7 takes care** of its stars and their problems **ENTERTAINMENT** / E6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FI

CURRENT EVENTS, LOCAL VERSION When the rains come, this flooded landscape on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, is familiarly Pinoy though not any less infuriating: Traffic at a standstill and children frolicking in dirty floodwaters. Mat shows are curves on the edge and different stages of road rage. Enter the horse-drawn carriage, and suddenly the picture changes. It's rendered a touch of whimsy, and ingenuity and even funny in its incongruity. MARY JOHN

'Helen' triggers heavy rain, flooding

By TJ Burgonio in Manila and Tonette Orejas Inquirer General Luzon

TROPICAL STORM "HELEN" dumped heavy rains on most parts of northern Luzon on Tuesday night and intensified on Wednesday afternoon, but changed course and skirted land.

As Helen traveled over the Philippine Sea east northeast of Cagayan at a slow pace, the storm spawned heavy rainfall in Cagayan, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Zambales and Mt. Province.

During a 24-hour period beginning Tuesday morning, weather forecasters recorded the highest rainfall at their stations in Casiguran, Aurora (482.9 millimeters), Vigan (182.6 mm), Aparri

HELEN A4

SC upholds secrecy of RP-Japan deals

BIG TURN ON President Arroyo leads Metro Manila mayors and different sectors in the country to switch on the cost-saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) at the launch of the Switch Movement, a Department of Energy initiative. Ms Arroyo says she's allowing P500 million sourced from the VAT "windfall" to buy CFLs to phase out incandescent lamps by 2010. (Story in Business, Page B1.) RICHARD VISCONDE

Executive privilege affirmed

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT yesterday upheld President Macapagal-Arroyo's power to conduct diplomatic negotiations in secrecy, rejecting an attempt by several lawmakers to secure confidential papers on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

Voting 10-4 with one abstention, the high court maintained its support of executive privilege that was laid down in March when it sustained former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, who refused to reveal to a Senate inquiry conversations

SC UPHOLDS A4

Quirino grandson yields to NBI

By Tina G. Santos

A MURDER MYSTERY STORY, where the crime scene was splattered with a name written in blood and had once shaken to the rafters the house of one of Manila's old rich, turned a new chapter yesterday.

Businessman Luis Gonzalez, a grandson of the late President Elpidio Quirino and former husband of singer Kuh Ledesma, surrendered to authorities to face trial for the March 2007 murder of his stepbrother Federico Delgado. (See What Were Before, Page A8.)

Gonzalez's mother Vicky Quirino, daughter of the former President, married shipping magnate Francisco Delgado after the death of his first wife. She

QUIRINO A6

₱300-M shabu seized; 5 Sinos arrested

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr. Inquirer Northern Luzon

REAL, QUEZON—SIX MEN were caught in the act of mixing chemicals in the production of shabu when government operatives yesterday raided a warehouse/laboratory in Barangay Mercedes here and seized some 70 kilos of liquefied methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) with an estimated street value of P300 million.

Dionisio Santiago, director general of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), said the raiders arrested two Taiwanese, three Chinese and a Filipino.

According to Santiago, the six men belong to the "Sii Chang" drug syndicate that has links to the "Chin Shue Lin" group, which operates in Asia and supplies the illegal drug to us for re-Japan and the United States.

P300-M SHABU A9

QC dad moves wedding site as population debate rages

By Christian V. Esguerra in Manila and Frank Cimatu and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE CUBAO DIOCESE HAS joined the Quezon archdiocese in threatening to refuse Holy Communion to politicians supporting controversial reproductive health measures.

Councilor Joseph Juico of Quezon City's first district said he had to look for a new venue for his upcoming wedding after a priest of the Cubao diocese threatened to deny him communion should he get married in the diocese.

"I felt bad about it," the 31-year-old councilor told the Inquirer. "It made me question my faith."

Juico said he became the subject of scorn from local Church leaders and prolife advocates after he introduced a popula-

QC DISPUTE A6

BRAVO Ateneo de Manila University conferred its traditional awards during a Special Academic Convocation on (from left) the Sumilao farmers (justice, charity) represented by Rizalyne Morida, Peter Tanseluay and Rene Pesus with their lawyer, Arlene J. Bagaso, Fr. Jerome Marquez (for awardee Fr. Antonio M. Pernia), Dr. Fernando P. Hallasgo, Luz-in-Dorema awardee, Gilda Cordero-Fernando (arts, culture) and Eggie Duran-Apostol (public service). JOE MALDO

Anwar arrested again on sodomy charges

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIAN police yesterday arrested opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim on suspicion that he sodomized a male aide, preempting his voluntary appearance at the police headquarters to answer the allegations.

The arrest was likely to exacerbate the political divisions and tensions that have been running high in Malaysia since the opposition made unprecedented gains in the March general elections to whittle away the ruling coalition's strength in Parliament.

Anwar has denied the sodomy accusations—made in a police complaint by the young male aide last month—as a politicized conspiracy by the government to snuff out his campaign to oust power by September.

Above a dozen policemen,

ANWAR A9

Gov't, MILF reach deal on ancestral homeland in South

ONE WORD—"FREEDOM"—LED it. The Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday reached a deal to create an ancestral homeland for 3 million Muslims

GOV'T, MILF A8

Mystery shrouds cat Australians gave to Pope

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—FOR Pope Benedict XVI, the cat is not quite out of the bag.

Organizers of the Catholic youth festival in Sydney say they borrowed a gray cat named Stella to help the fellow-loving Pontiff pass the time at his retreat in Australia's bush country, according to front-page stories in Australian newspapers on Tuesday. (Full editorial story in The World, Page A22.)

MYSTERY A6

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY Cloudy skies with rain showers and thunderstorms

Metro Manila	Low/High	Rain
Baguio	16/26	Rain
Tuguegarao	24/34	Cloudy with Rain
Laoag	24/34	Cloudy with Rain
Iba	24/34	Cloudy with Rain
Puerto Princesa	24/34	Rain
Legazpi	24/34	Rain
Catarman	24/34	Rain
Iloilo	24/34	Rain
Cebu	24/34	Rain
Tacloban	24/34	Rain
Zamboanga	24/34	Rain
Davao	24/34	Rain
Cagayan de Oro	24/34	Rain

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Adaza strikes back at PNP

Arrests illegal, says lawyer

By Alexis Pajo

ADAZA

FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN AND opposition lawyer Honorioo Adaza yesterday filed a string of cases against top officials of the Philippine National Police and state prosecutors before the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with his July 2 arrest for allegedly plotting a coup.

Charged were PNP Chief Director General Avelino Razon and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief Dir. Raul Castañeda and at least 23 others.

Also included in the suit were Lawyer Raymund Fortun; Sr. Supts. Benito Ebreo, Arthur Dellus, Supt. Rene Dequinal Jaremo Malinao of the CIDG; State Prosecutors Emmanuel Velasco, Desiderio Sobiduro and Rose Elaine Villareto and Assistant Cinder Lumilla.

The charges included violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Code of Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees, Anti-Wiretapping Law, and the Revised Penal Code.

'Who broke the law?'

Razon, however, shrugged off Adaza's charges and stressed that it was Adaza and not the police who broke the law.

"Who violated the law? Who committed the offense? If with Attorney Mendoza-Arana, not the police," Razon said. "If we will be charged for doing our job, so be it. We are used to that."

Police arrested Adaza, Lt. Col. Oscar Mapalo, former Police Supt. Rakiel Cambolo and retired Colonels Ernie Arabit and Cesar dela Peña at the Holiday Inn Hotel in the Ortigas Center on July 2.

They were charged with a proposal to commit a coup, rebellion or unlawful, and obstruction of justice.

Castaneda said it was within Adaza's right to file the complaint. "Mr. Adaza's arrest was within the performance of our duty and we acted on a complaint filed by AFP," Bolina.

Adaza was arrested after Fortun complained that Adaza was allegedly extorting some $4 million from his Japanese client to fund a coup against the Arroyo administration, a charge flatly denied by Adaza.

Complete lie

In his 32-page complaint, Adaza said the accusation of Fortun that he tried to extort money "is a complete lie."

Adaza said Fortun "conspired and collaborated" with the CIDG and PNP officials to have them arrested.

Adaza also branded his arrest last July 2 as an "oppressive, tyrannical, cruel execution of a criminal warrant less earnest."

In his complaint, Adaza alleged that the raiding team that arrested them did not carry a warrant and did not read them their rights and they were brought to the CIDG headquarters in Camp Crame.

He said they were also held incommunicado for five hours after their arrest, and were not granted even promptly to the courts.

Adaza recalled that men in civilian clothes barged into a room at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Ortigas Center on July 2 and arrested them.

Adaza urged that some of the arresting agents had personal knowledge of what was transpiring in Room 1002 of the Holiday Inn Hotel where they barged in and arrested them.

Hence, they had no right to effect a "warrantless arrest," and hence, should be charged, he said. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

CHR claims police officer in kidnap-slay was tortured

By Phoebe Ramos

A POLICE OFFICIAL WHO WAS arrested for his alleged role in a kidnapping-slay case was battered by fellow policemen, the Commission on Human Rights said yesterday.

Chief Inspector Rhoquiel Cinco Ferrer, the training director of the 4th Special Action Force, suffered physical abuse while he was under the custody of fine policemen who arrested him last July 4 in Sto. Rosa, Laguna, said a CHR doctor, Joseph Andrew Reterta.

In his report, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, Reterta said he noticed 26 contusions, abrasions and hematomas all over Ferrer's body when he examined the latter at his detention cell at the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) in Camp Crame.

Reterta, who visited Cambero three days after the arrest, said the lesions and injuries appeared to have been "ballooned lately recently."

"The treatment received by the subject (Cambero) while in detention satisfies the criteria for torture as defined under the United Nations Convention Against Torture of 1984," he said in his report dated July 13.

Planner, mastermind

Cambero, former Tanauan, Batangas City Vice Mayor Victor Calunsag and two of their alleged henchmen were arrested last July 4 in their alleged role in the June 27 kidnapping of retired police Brigadier General Cesario Ed Lim. Another spouse spoke against this assertion way of policemen to extract extra-legal confessions," Cullen said in an interview.

PNP reproached

During a speech at the Camp Crame police headquarters on Monday, De Lima reproached the Philippine National Police for its double-title human rights record.

"Memories of the dictator continued during the martial law years, when the police were part of the Philippine Constabulary, are hard to forget. Incidents during the term of past police chiefs like the Kuratong Baleleng case and the Oplan salt-out, have not been forgotten, "De Lima said.

Cambero's wife, Hilad Imperial Rosalyn Cambero, said the CHR report contradicted the Pacer's allegations against her husband. She said the Pacer lied when it said they did not know her husband.

Evangeline Hidalgo, Cambero's lawyer, said they would bring his client's case to the Office of the Ombudsman where they would also file criminal and administrative cases against Pacer chief Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina and his men.

Hidalgo said the CHR report was "a very strong evidence" in Cambero's petition for a writ of amparo.

"Torture has no place in a democratic society like ours. Our constitution forbids it. Limit has spoken spoke against this assertion way of policemen to extract extra-legal confessions," Cullen said in an interview.

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OIL VAT BONANZA

Customs execs all set to reward selves again

By Gil C. Cabacungan

[illegible] EMBARRASSED BY THE controversy in granting for rewarding himself and his staff with roughly P500 million in bonuses in 2008, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales has revealed that he and his people now in for a much bigger cash bonanza this year as skyrocketing oil prices have swelled the customs bureau's value-added-tax haul.

"The VAT we collect is big and there could be a little windfall," said Morales.

When asked if it would approximate the P500 million in rewards that were distributed in 2008, he said, "It could be the same amount but probably much more."

Morales said the BOC has already exceeded its six-month collection target by P6.173 billion and was headed for a prosperous new year with the upward in oil prices expected to continue for the rest of the year.

He noted that the increased collections were being met even if the BOC has been collecting zero duties on oil (the President had ordered oil duties suspended if the price of oil hits more than $100 per barrel).

Not deserving

Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Francis Escudero have criticized Morales for rewarding himself and his other staff, from directors to clerks, with a total of P537 million (P402 million in cash and P135 million in accounts receivable) after the BOC revenue collections hit P399.2 billion in 2008, or P72.2 billion in excess of its target of P366 billion.

Enrile and Escudero said that Morales, who got the highest single reward of P6.5 million, did not deserve the reward because the improved collections were achieved not from better performance but from advance VAT payments for 2007 of the oil companies.

Morales is unperturbed by the criticism, insisting that the 2008 reward and the expected bonanza at the end of the year have a basis in the Lateral Attrition Law which provides for rewards and penalties for the BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to encourage these drafts to foster revenue collections.

'Not our fault'

"Risk is not Customs' core duties. There was a committee created to implement the law and it was headed by the Department of Finance, with the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Budget and Management and BOC as members," he said.

Morales said the rewards system was set by the revenue evaluation board and the distribution is based on "a study by the SB Agency for International Development which up of bright men and women from UP Inter Universities of the Philippines]."

"[The evaluation] took 7 months and we had nominees before we implemented it. When we submitted it to the DOF it was approved in toto," said Morales.

Asked whether he and the BOC staff should also be held responsible for the estimated P150 billion lost annually from smuggling, Morales said that most of the charges made by the senators, such as the P13 billion worth of vehicles smuggled into the country since 2001, occurred before his term.

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Palace defends Garcia

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID THE corruption charges filed in the Office of the Ombudsman against Rhoda Garcia, the president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, were unwarranted.

A former GSIS senior official has charged Garcia with graft for allegedly earning over P1 billion in SSS funds in the Office of the President in 2004.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the P1 billion was loaned out by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the national treasury which refused official receipt no. 4197809.

He explained that the funds were remitted by the GSIS to the President as keeping with the provisions of Republic Act 8291, which covers insurance funds.

Under the law, the GSIS insures all government properties against losses like calamities, fires, earthquakes, etc. and earns income from this.

"In December 2004, the GSIS remitted to the national government and handed over a P1 billion dummy check for the President," he said.

'No anomaly'

He said the P1 billion had not been lost as alleged but was now included in the "money that the national treasurer is managing."

"As of now, there is no anomaly ... I'm sure he (Garcia) will be able to answer that properly in the proper forum," said Ermita.

Albert Velasco, a dismissed GSIS employee and former president of the state-run pension fund's union, on Tuesday filed a graft complaint against Garcia and other top GSIS officials alleging that they, through a board resolution, illegally disbursed the P1 billion to Malacañang from a surplus from the GSIS insurance fund.

Ermita said Garcia, whom he described as "a good manager," continued to enjoy the trust and confidence of Ms Arroyo.

"From the point of view of the President, he's steering the GSIS in a manner that befits a good manager and, therefore, the continuance of the President remains in Winnie Garcia," he said.

Ermita also denied that the Office of the President has failed to account for P1 billion in cash advances, following the filing of a Senate resolution by Sen. Loren Legarda seeking an inquiry into the said allegedly "irregular disbursements" of Malacañang based on a 2007 Commission on Audit report.

"The travel expenses of the President up to this date...including the latest trip to US—is almost all liquidated already. I was told by the deputy executive secretary for finance and administration that only 5% still remains to be liquidated," he said.

Michael Lim Ubac

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'Helen' a blessing to farmers, says agriculture official

DANILO TUMAMAO, PIO/Occidental agriculture of Isabela, called Tropical Storm "Helen" a blessing in rice and corn farmers.

Tumamao said the rains brought on by the storm provided enough water for backyard fishpond operators and rice farms.

With the rains, he said Isabela could register increased production this year.

Isabela produced 1.05 million metric tons of palay last harvested 1.1 million MT.

Isabela consumes about 30 percent of its rice production and the rest of the harvest is sold at markets in Metro Manila and other provinces, according to Tumamao.

The storm, however, did not help increase the water level at the Magat Dam lands in Ramon town, which supplies irrigation to 85,000 hectares in Cagayan Valley and provides power to the Luzon grid.

Edwin Pedro, weather and flood forecasting chief of the National Irrigation Administration Magat River Integrated Irrigation System, said the dam's water level dropped to 176.04 meters on Wednesday, which was lower than the 176.20 meters posted on Tuesday.

In Cagayan, Gov. Alfonso Noceda asked residents in low-lying villages to move to higher ground.

Noceda said the provincial disaster coordinating council had set a "zero typhoon casualty" target through early warning and evacuation preparedness. —Filsaime Olaque, Ke ayed Fernandez Cobbler, Inquirer Northern Luzon

'Helen' triggers heavy rain, flooding

Front page A1

(102 mm) and Tuguegarao (123.2 mm).

The weather monitor at Subic Bay Metropolitan and Baguio recorded a rainfall of 128.6 mm and 93.2 mm.

"We had expected these areas to experience floods because the soil could only absorb between 100 to 200 mm of rain," said typhoon forecaster Ana Liza Solis of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Monsoon rains

The rest of Luzon, including Metro Manila, and the Visayas experienced monsoon rains from Tuesday night to Wednesday morning. The rains were enhanced by the southwesterlies over the northernmost part of Luzon.

"The continuous rain that we experienced Tuesday night was monsoon rain," Solis said.

The storm intensified on Wednesday afternoon, packing maximum winds of 95 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 120 kph.

Moving toward Taiwan

Gaining speed from 7 kph to 13 kph, Helen also changed its direction from west-northwest to northward toward Taiwan after it was pulled by a tough (an elongated region of a low atmospheric pressure), stalling hurricane.

The storm was estimated at 210 km northeast of Aparri at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

"As it moves in bodies of water, it may intensify into a typhoon. But as it moves away, the stormy weather will subside," Arante said. "There will be monsoon rain, but not as intense as before."

Signal No. 2

As 4 p.m. Wednesday, storm Signal No. 2 was hoisted over northern Cagayan, including the Calayan group of islands. Apayao, Batanes and Ilocos Norte.

Signal No. 1 was raised over the rest of Cagayan, Abra, Kalinga, Mt. Province, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan and Benguet.

Helen is forecast to be at 210 km northeast of Basco, Batanes, this afternoon and 240 km northeast of Taipei, Taiwan, tomorrow afternoon.

Moving toward Taiwan

Pagasa warned northern to central villages under Signal No. 2 of big waves, and those living in low-lying areas and mountain slopes of flash flood and landslides.

Helen, the eighth storm to make it into the country this year, is expected to continue to weaken the southwest monsoon and bring rain over the rest of Luzon and the Visayas, particularly the western section, the Pagasa said.

Warning against lahar

The government's chief volcanologist has advised those who have built homes and cultivated farms and fishponds within the PHIVOLCS Mayabibo in Bacolor, Pampanga, to be alert when typhoons hit the area and to prepare to evacuate.

Dr. Renato Solidum, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), issued the advisory after local officials warned strongly on a supposed warning earlier made by Phivolcs geologist Wyla de los Reyes.

Vice Mayor Dimas Daiz invited De los Reyes to the town council's session on Tuesday to ask her to shed light on her supposed statement that "no one will be allowed to live within the megadike."

At the session, De los Reyes clarified that with the people's safety in mind, she had called for warning systems against flood and lahar flow within the dike.

Constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in August 1996, the massive dike was breached the following month. The dike continues to serve as Pampanga's main catchment of lahar left on the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo and on river channels.

The base of the 66-km dike is 60 meters wide.

The U-shaped dike enclosed the Pasig-Potrero River and 17 of 21 Bacolor villages in a bid to save the province's capital city, San Fernando. Some parts of Metro Clark are within the megadike.

Solidum told the Inquirer that "ideally, [there should be] no settlement within the dike."

Potential danger

Solidum, in a local television interview on Tuesday, urged Bacolor residents, especially those living within the dike, to "know where the active channel is and where it shifts because that's where the potential danger can come."

"When you live outside the dike, the threat is higher. You need to monitor [the channels] during heavy rains and make good evacuation plans ahead," he said in Filipino.

The big lahar flow has occurred outside the Pasig-Potrero River since 1995, and lahar deposits have channeled over time, Solidum said.

Residents return to villages

Residents have returned to their old villages within the dike for lack of land to till in resettlement sites, Daiz said.

They come for agricultural activities during the day or during summer months, he said.

Alfredo Yalaciac, DPWH director in Central Luzon, said there was no reason to stop residents from reclaiming their lands because the DPWH paid only for lots actually occupied by the dike.

Yalaciac described the dike to be "very much usable."

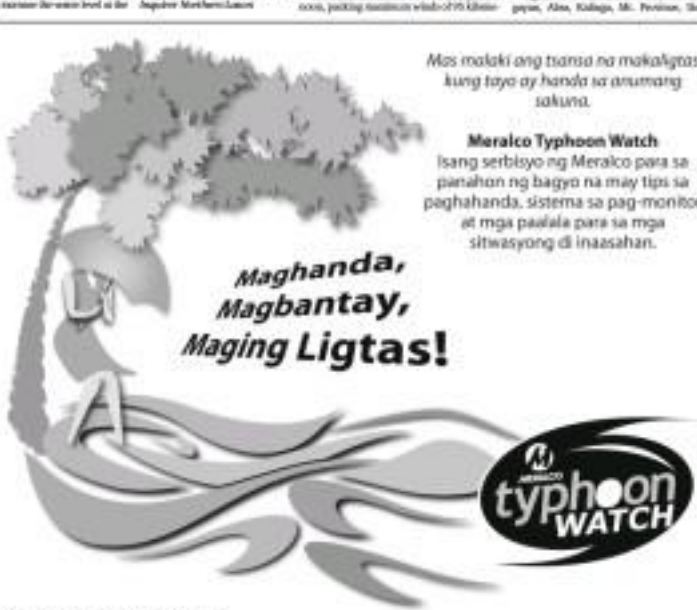
Dana, a geologist and civil engineer, said he agreed with Dr. los Reyes when she said the threat of flooding was greater downstream of the Capas creek.

Villages buried

Lahar again buried the villages of Dinalaro, Talba and Mesalipit after the south dike in Tinajero breached at the height of Typhoon Ruping "Rosing" in August last year.

Floodwaters and old lahar deposits flow around that creek because the old channel of the Pasig-Potrero River has not been restored.

The DPWH, the Pampanga government and village officials have resumed the desilting of the Capas creek so it could confine floodwaters and lahar within the channels.



BAGO DUMATING ANG BAGYO

- **Maging alisto**. Makibalita sa TV, radyo at internet tungkol sa lagay ng panahon.
- **Mag-ipon ng tubig**. Maaaring mawalan ng tubig ng ilang araw.
- **Magluan ng pagkain** na hindi nasisira kahit hindi ilagay sa refrigerator. Mag-imbak ng mga de-lata at mga instant na pagkain tulad ng noodles at biskwit.
- **Maghanda ng mga gamit na pang bagyo** na kinabibilangan ng de-baterya ng radyo, flashlights, karagdagang baterya, raincoats at mga gamot.
- **Maghanda sa posibleng pagkawala ng kuryente.** Mag-charge ng mga gamit na makukutulong kapag may brown-out tulad ng cellphone at rechargeable lamp.
- **Itali o ipasak sa loob ng lalim ang mga bagay na maaaring liparin.** Isaring mabuti ang mga bintana at pintuan at isarili kung nakakabit nang mabuti ang mga bubong. Siguraduhing hindi barado ang mga alulod.
- **Tabasan ang mga puno** at i-report sa Meralco ang mga puno na dumidikit sa linya ng kuryente.
- **Magtala ng mga mahahalagang contact numbers** malapit sa telepono tulad ng Meralco, telephone companies, village security at iba pa.

HABANG MAY BAGYO

- **Makibalita sa TV at radyo** para sa mga emergency information.
- **Kapag masyado nang malakas ang hangin**, pumunta sa gitna ng bahay, sa pasilyo o sa anumang lugar sa bahay na malayo sa mga babasaging bintana.
- **Kapag nawalan ng kuryente**, isara at alisin sa saksakan ang lahat ng inyong appliances.
- **Kapag binaha na ang inyong tahanan**, isara ang main switch at ilipat ang inyong mga appliances at iba pang mahahalagang gamit sa mas mataas na lugar.

PAGKATAPOS NG BAGYO

- **Suriin ang inyong bahay para sa mga pinsala.** Ang mga pinsala sa mga electrical facilities na nasa loob ng inyong tirahan ay dapat ipaayos kaagad sa isang lisensiyadong electrician.
- **Huwag gamitin ang mga appliances na nabasa** at ipasuri ang mga ito sa lisensiyadong tagakumpuni.
- **Tumulong sa paglilinis ng kalye** at pagsuri sa mga napinsalang Meralco facilities sa inyong lugar at makipagtulungan sa tagapamahala ng inyong village para ma-report ang mga ito sa Meralco.
- **Tumawag sa Meralco para i-report ang pagkawala ng kuryente** at i-monitor ang status ng pag-restore sa kuryente sa pamamagitan ng pakikinig sa radyo. Makakatulong din upang hindi maipakabay-sabay ang mga tawag sa Call Centers. Magtiwagay ang Meralco ng regular updates sa pamamagitan ng iba't ibang istasyon ng radyo.

Tumawag sa Meralco Call Center sa numerong **16211** o mag-text sa **0917-5592824** o **0920-9292824** o kaya gamitin ang online feedback ng **Meralco website** para i-report ang pagkawala ng kuryente, pagkasira ng electrical facilities at pagbaha.

Para sa mga karagdagang impormasyon, mag log on sa **www.meralco.com.ph**.

MERALCO *may liwanag ang bukas*

Correction

IN THE 2013 35-ISSUE, a front-page article on "Mass celebration on MRT-LTR anniversary"—reminded the memories of a former police officer who is allegedly part of the so-called "Ginebra" group. "The name of the ex-police officer is Quintero "Tawit" de la Torre—not Arellano.

* * *

Readers may send their suggestions, comments or factual errors or anything to the Ring Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PSE Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila; email: [illegible]; fax no. [illegible]; or mail: [illegible]

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Publisher's e-mail address: [illegible]

Sandigan orders 90-day suspension of Samar governor

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN 3RD DIVISION has ordered the suspension of Samar Gov. Milagrosa Tan Tes and four other provincial executives who are all facing eight graft cases for the allegedly irregular purchase of some P16 million worth of supplies seven years ago.

In a July 11 resolution, the anti-graft court's 4th Division directed Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to immediately place the Samar officials on a 90-day suspension.

Included in the suspension order are Rolando Ilonzeja, provincial administrative officer; Marissa Rendez, accountant; Mariano Sison, budget officer and Renemarc Legaspi, property inspection officer.

The court said that under the law, a suspension does not require prior establishment of guilt or strength of evidence.

The prosecution accused the suspension became mandatory after the anti-graft court found the charges against the officials sufficient "in form and substance."

The Office of the Ombudsman filed the eight graft cases in 2000 for the purchase of goods, including electric fans, medicines and rice, without public bidding, from December 2001 to December 2002, or during Tes's first term.

The accused officials cited the "emergency purchase" of relief goods for the victims of typhoon "Yoling" in December 2001 as an excuse for not holding a bidding, said the anti-graft body.

But a Commission on Audit report later established that the funds used, as approved by the provincial council, were actually allocated for victims of an earlier typhoon, "Nanang," which hit Samar in November 2001.

The trial to continue the court to junk the charges, which she described as "defective" as they were filed based merely on a single one.

She also claimed that the public would be deprived of her services if she is suspended.

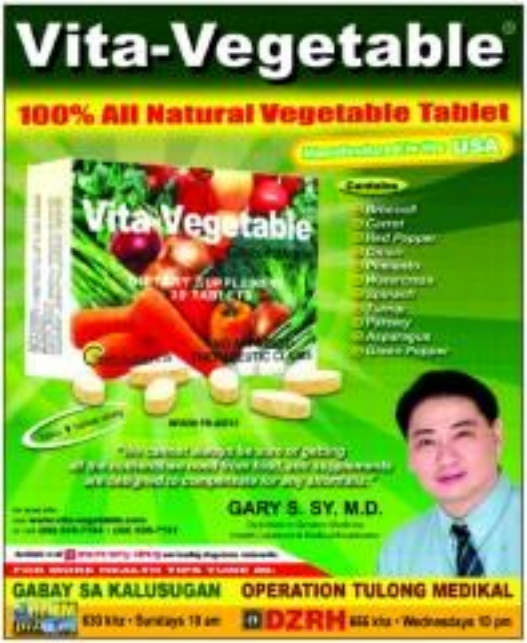
But the court found her claims "untenable," saying that the law made mandatory in graft cases the suspension of accused public officials to prevent them from hampering the prosecution by influencing witnesses or tampering with documentary evidence.

Loren drops Lucida-DS

MRS. LOREN Legarda has not been with the importer and distributor of Lucida-DS after the Department of Health Bureau of Food and Drugs recently ordered a product recall of the skin whitening pill for failing to meet the minimum glutathione content.

In a text statement, Legarda ordered United Shutter Health Products to dismantle all its billboards within 24 hours and explain to the public the adverse findings of the DOH-BFAD.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



SC upholds secrecy of RP-Japan deals

Front page A1

with the President about a bribery attempt surrounding the aborted $329-million broadband deal with China.

The Japan, signed in 1998, is a bilateral trade-and-investment agreement welcomed in some circles for eliminating most tariffs on Philippine goods and services entering Japan and criticized by environmentalists for allegedly paving the way for the entry of toxic substances to the country.

Fidel Ramos, who had lived in executive privileges in their communities, said the SC decision would not go anywhere in the future.

"While, on this occasion, it appears wise to defer Philippine representatives from entering into compromises, it does not, however, mean that, at some other time, any negotiation for that matter, normally involves a process of quid pro quo, and oftentimes, negotiators have to be willing to give concessions to an area of lesser importance in order to obtain most favorable terms in an area of greater sentimental interest," the court said.

The 51-page decision penned by Justice Godofredo Gutierrez Mendoza said that if negotiators would be scared of granting too many compromises, "we may be jeopardizing the [relationship] with the other country involved and, ultimately, the country involved once."

The petitioners included the attorneys party-list group, Representatives Loreta Rosales, Eleanor Nicolas Begtang and Joel Villanueva, and the officers of Progresibong Labor and the Harbosang Katipunan ng mga Samahang Manggagawa.

The respondents included Executive Secretary Edmundo Ermita, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Trade Undersecretary Tomas Aquino.

The petitioners also sought the release of the full text of the Japan accord, but the court said the had become moot and academic because the agreement had been made available to the public.

Puno's dissenting opinion

In a 119-page dissenting opinion, however, Chief Justice Hilario Puno said that the scope and impact of the Japan pact vis-à-vis the constitutional right to information, checks and accountability and the duties of executive privileges.

"He stressed the right to information is constitutional values not without reason. In a democracy debate—by the people directly or through their representatives in Congress—is a dominant tool to assure that the informed will not an exchange of surprises of ignorance," Puno said.

"Especially for the powerless whose sword and shield against abuse is their voice, the exercise of the right is not merely diversion. It is fight from the gut. To satisfy their hunger, and feed a human life," he said.

"Allowing public access to trade agreement negotiations, and draft texts, in various degrees and ways, has gained momentum in the landscape of US diplomatic and foreign relations. Thus, I submit that, when warranted, we must overcome the cramp of the old traditions of secrecy," Puno said.

Also dissenting were Justices Alicia Austria-Martinez, Adolf Azcuna and Consuelo Ynares-Santiago. Justice Artemio Panganiban, a former labor secretary, abstained.

No violation of free speech

The majority decision said the earlier court rulings had already established that foreign-trade negotiations could be subject to safeguards, and that this secrecy did not violate the constitutional provision on freedom of speech.

"It is reasonable to conclude that the Japanese representatives submitted their offer with the understanding that 'features confidentiality' would govern the issue. Disclosing these offers could impede the ability of the Philippines to deal not only with Japan but with other foreign governments," Executive Department, the court said.

It also said that the lawmakers and the NGOs did not present strong enough arguments to show that there was sufficient public interest that would demand the immediate disclosure of the negotiating papers.

The court said the petitioners' argument that the Filipino people were not involved in the negotiation process, thus leading to the bargaining away of their economic and property rights behind their backs, was a factual issue that the high court did not need to resolve.

It said that public officials had shown documents to support their assurances that pushing the free flow of goods, services and capital between the Philippines and Japan by eliminating tariffs or almost all tariffs on most goods.

The Japan Inc. owns to build-state entity of Filipino workers to to Japan.

Some legal experts said the agreement "violated constitutional safeguards on national patrimony" while most members of non-government organizations denounced Japan for dumping toxic wastes in the country.

The treaty has been ratified by the Japanese parliament, but it is yet to be approved by the Philippine Senate.

Both Sen. Mar Roxas II, chairman of the Senate committee on trade and commerce, and Sen. Alfredo Lim, chairman of the Senate's foreign relations committee, backed the ratification of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jaepa), saying that the government "violated the Constitution's provision on transparency and the right to information on matters of public concern."

The petitioners included party-list group Akbayan, Pasang Katipunan ng mga Samahang Manggagawa sa Transportasyon and Alliance of Progressive Labor.

However, the Supreme Court failed to decide on this petition until President Macapagal-Arroyo and Tokyo Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed the Jaepa in Shinjuku, Tokyo, in September 2000.

The agreement, billed as a "new age" free trade agreement, is aimed at facilitating and promoting

Masbate clashes initiated by gov't troops – Yano

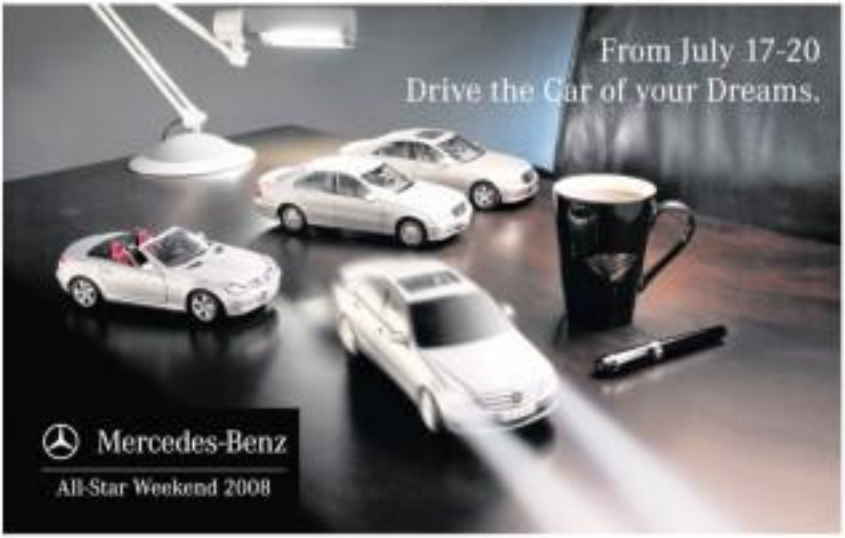
By Alexis Pupa

THE SKIRMISHES between government troops and communist rebels in Masbate Wednesday that coincided with a visit to the province by President Macapagal-Arroyo was a result of increased military troops in the area, and not a reflection of rebel strength, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

AFP chief of staff Gen. Alexander Yano told reporters yesterday that the encounters, at least four, were "unplanned" after the military increased its deployment in the province from 125 soldiers to 500. He estimated that the communist New People's Army (NPA) in the province had 100 fighters.

"When we sent more troops, definitely there would be clashes," the AFP chief said. "It ensured quiet before because they (NPA) had no enemies."

According to Yano, he was able to launch troops from the 9th Infantry Battalion to Masbate because of the "improved" security situation in the Bicol Region. He added that the AFP is on track to dismantle NPA guerrilla fronts in the area.



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Gov't, MILF reach deal on ancestral homeland

Front page 1

in Mindanao, officials said.

The agreement, while crucial for the resumption of formal peace talks, does not guarantee the end of a more 40-year conflict that has killed 120,000 people and displaced two million in Mindanao.

"We have finally settled all the remaining issues on ancestral domain," Malaysian Sajid, chief MILF negotiator, told Reuters at the end of a one-day meeting brokered by the Malaysian government.

"It was a tough meeting. The real battle will be fought on the turn level when we start talks on the political formula to end the conflict. But, at least we have instilled the ancestral domain issue. We can now return to formal negotiations."

Rodolfo Garcia, the head of the government's peace panel, said: "Praise God. It's over."

Dropping the F-word

Rizza Adviser Hermagoni in person said both government and MILF panels have agreed to "drop" the word freedom from the draft agreement on ancestral domain.

"The word freedom was dropped and both panels settled to stick to the phrase 'aspirations of the Bangsamoro People,'" Esperon said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said they have yet to get a copy of the agreement, but expressed confidence that this would pave the way for further consultation of the exploratory talks or formal negotiations."

Kabalu said the dropping of the word "freedom" would mean that the negotiations, and any agreement that would be signed in the future, would focus on the Bangsamoro People's aspiration for self-determination, and not by what government thinks is freedom for our people."

Esperon said the agreement was reached in Cyprus Wednesday.

The government and the 15,000-member MILF have been talking for more than a decade on how to give Muslims in the south a greater degree of self-rule and it took the two sides nearly four years to reach this agreement on expanding the coverage of an existing autonomous region for the minority group.

Many in the Philippines are skeptical about a speedy final resolution to one of Southeast Asia's most intractable conflicts, but the government considers it optimistic sooner.

"We are happy that the talks are finally moving forward," Esperon told Reuters in Manila after he was informed of the breakthrough.

"We are very positive that we could meet an earlier deadline to wrap up talks and sign a final peace deal with the MILF by next year."

Although President Bhutto-gat-arroyo has repeatedly said the event passes, hardes in her Cabinet are opposed to giving large swathes of land to Muslim and politically powerful Christian clans in Mindanao would certainly oppose a final deal.

Extend peace mandate

Iqbal said the two sides would now discuss ways to expand and extend the mandate of the 60-unarmed peace monitors from Brunei, Japan, Libya and Malaysia who have been deployed in Mindanao since October 2004. With reports from Julie S. Alfredo, Inquirer Mindanao and Reuters

Anwar, Malaysian opposition leader, arrested again on sodomy raps

Front page 1

"He was arrested on a suspect in the case," the lawyer said, adding that he expected Anwar to be charged under a law making sodomy, even between consenting adults, a crime punishable by up to 20 years in jail.

Anwar was held in custody by police for 14 days as a suspect without charge.

The opposition leader was handed into a police car with dark tinted windows and driven to the police headquarters where scores of opposition lawmakers including his wife Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail gathered outside. They were not allowed in and there was no trouble or violence.

Anwar said Sunday called on his cell phone after being arrested.

"I had opportunities because my husband ... is not that well. He has a bad back, he's had surgery. And during our the brief conversation he said they (police) were very gentle," she said.

'Very uncivilized'

It was not clear why Anwar was arrested a little before 1 p.m. since he had said he would present himself for interrogation before the Wednesday 2 p.m. deadline set by the police.

Hamid Albar, the Malaysian Minister of Home Affairs, said the arrest of Anwar's People's Justice Party, called the arrest "outrageous and very uncivilized."

"This is not a civilized case but a political case," Anwar said.

The arrest was made in Anwar was returning home from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur. He had told reporters Friday that he would go to the police headquarters at 2 p.m. and "give my fullest cooperation" to the police.

The sodomy accusation surrounds a drama surrounding a former scandal Anwar Sunday 1998 when he was deputy prime minister. He was fired and the sodomy accusation led to his dismissal from the government and subsequent conviction and imprisonment. His downfall led to massive street protests by his supporters he woke.

No basis for fabrication

Malaysia's Supreme Court later overturned the conviction, but by then Anwar had served six years to jail on a related abuse of power charge. He was freed in 2004, when he received his political career in an opposition leader.

"There is no basis for this whether fabrication and character attacks. It is just a repeat of the 1998 script. You can see the pattern," Anwar said in Putrajaya.

The sodomy accusation has hampered his campaigns to topple the government, which ruthlessly built up the hands of his three-party People's Alliance in the March 8 general elections.

The ruling National Front coalition, which has traditionally enjoyed a two-thirds majority, now has only a 30-seat advantage over the opposition. Anwar's dismissal and wide-ranging reforms credited with boosting the opposition's strength in the 2008 election. With reports from Time, 19 to 21 years.

In Manila, former President Joseph Estrada said he is disappointed he was "deeply bothered" by the arrest of Anwar.

"It appears that the arrest was politically motivated and raises questions of the Malaysian opposition have called me expressing fears that physical harm might be inflicted upon Anwar. I hope that the Malaysian government will exercise prudence and observe the process in Anwar's case," Estrada said. AP

WHAT WENT BEFORE

BLESSINGS PEDRICO

Claudius Delgado had just arrived at his penthouse apartment at the Wind Breeze building in Makati, Manila, in the evening of March 10, 2007, when two men attacked him and his companion brothers.

The assailants reportedly fled. Police said they locked the inside a driveway room. She carried her self at 3:00 a.m. the following day and rushed to the nearest police station.

When police arrived at the crime scene, they found the 31-year-old Delgado lying in a pool of blood at the entrance to his room. He had been stabbed repeatedly in the chest.

They also found the name "Vivian" written in blood on a wall near the victim's body. Four-year-old Delgado's elder brother.

Delgado's eldest sister Isabel Lopez and other relatives that Vivian had accused Delgado's common-law wife Vivian Lopez of killing her brother with Quintos passed away in November 2006.

Gonzalez's daughter, Vicky Quintos, daughter of former President Elpidio Quirino, mentioned Francisco Delgado in the death of his first wife Quintos passed away in November 2006.

Gonzalez's biological sister Maria Rosario "Baby" Gonzalez-Meyer defended the suspect in a March 2007 interview with the reporters. "If he claim is that we want part of the Delgado money we have no right to it since one is other died," she said.

Psychiatric ward

Gonzalez's lawyer Percy Rivera said he client could not have killed Delgado because the suspect was confined to the psychiatric ward of the San Juan Hospital at the time of the murder. Gonzalez was reportedly brought to the hospital on March 7 after becoming incoherent and disoriented. He was transferred the same day to the Makati Medical Center's acute psychiatric department, where he stayed until March 19, Rivera said.

This was corroborated by Gonzalez's psychiatrist Jun Eduard Bellin, who said his patient was on rehabilitation for alcohol-induced psychotic disorder.

On March 23, the Manila police filed murder and frustrated murder charges against Gonzalez and his driver Antonio Bacolod in the office of the Chief Prosecutor.

Case dismissed last ...

In September 2007, acting Manila Prosecutor Generoso Layran dismissed the charges, citing Gonzalez's lack of motive and the witnesses' confirmation of Gonzalez's confinement at the time of the killing. He also gave credence to Bacolod's claim that he was in a restaurant on Roxas Boulevard, Manila when the crime was committed.

But on Oct. 31, 2007, acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera reversed Layran's findings. On Nov. 5, the justice department filed murder charges against Gonzalez and Bacolod in the Manila Regional Trial Court. He had was reconsidered after the suspect. Cyril C. Benedicto, Inquirer Research

Quirino grandson yields to NBI

Front page 1

passed away in December 2006.

Gonzalez's aunt Lila Quintos, who accompanied her nephew to the National Bureau of Investigation at around 3 p.m., said he "voluntarily surrendered, and notwithstanding his innocence, in order to clear his name."

The prime suspect, however, refused to be interviewed or photographed by the media. "Let (them) talk to my lawyers. I was advised not to greet any interviews," a jail personnel quoted Gonzalez as saying.

Quintos said Gonzalez decided to turn himself in upon learning that Judge Thelma Medina of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 32 had ordered the issuance of a warrant for his arrest last July 3.

"It is incorrect to say that charges against him and he will cross the opportunity to prove his innocence," Gonzalez's defense counsel said in a statement.

Tapeworth defense team

The multiple former Justice Secretary Avelino Mendoza, former Manila Chief City Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano and Associate Dial.

"In spite of this, he wants nothing less than all charges for murder against him dropped for lack of probable cause. We believe in the justice system and we have to go to speedy trial. Her resolution of this case to stop the terrible injustice," their statement added.

Driver at large

Quintos explained that, though a lawyer herself, she would not be part of the legal team but would serve as her nephew's spokesperson.

Gonzalez and his personal driver Antonio Bacolodor have been charged with the murder of Delgado and the frustrated murder of the victim's companion, Aurelio Pedro Bacolodor remained at large.

A Manila prosecutor initially dismissed the charges in September 2007, upholding Gonzalez's claim that he was in a hospital undergoing psychiatric treatment at the time of the murder. The ruling, however, was reversed by the Department of Justice a month later.

(See What Went Before above.)

At the NBI office yesterday, Quintos informed Gonzalez's aide.

"He was falsely accused. He was undergoing rehabilitation at the time. He was fully sedated so he can be put up and be arrested in the hospital," she said. "We know the affidavits of about 30 doctors and nurses to prove that."

Quintos explained that the case at the Manila RTC had been put on hold in view of Gonzalez's pending motion to submit new arguments evoking the dismissal of the case at the Court of Appeals.

The appellate court is scheduled to have the oral arguments at 10 a.m. today, she said.

"He went through the usual process, like fingerprinting. Then the NBI people took him to the court to serve the first motion to allow him to stay at the NBI jail," Quirino said reporters.

Gonzalez was back at the NBI office by 5 p.m.

Quintos said her nephew chose to surrender to the NBI because its office was near the Court of Appeals building and he considered the bureau "a credible entity."

Daughter picks sister over mother

Front page 1

who is being treated in a military hospital.

The appellate court dismissed the habeas corpus petition filed by Gamanio in favor Batasa after the latter told the justices that she was not being held against her will at the Fort Bonifacio Hospital and had voluntarily gone there.

"We have to dismiss the petition because there is no illegality," Justice Andres Reyes said at the conclusion of the hearing yesterday.

Reyes also said that with Batasa's choice to stay with 21-year-old Rose Anne, the court could not force her to go back her mother.

Stockholm syndrome

Ephraim Genuro, Gamanio's lawyer, had appealed that Batasa, a minor, be released to her mother, and that she undergo a psychological test.

At one point, Genuro had requested in the court his concern that Batasa was afflicted with Stockholm syndrome, or an emotional bond between a captive turned by a hostage as a result of continuous stress, dependence, and a need to cooperate to survive.

Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang moved to dismiss the petition of the case by virtue of Batasa's statements.

The court maintained that the issue at hand was the legality of Batasa's detention.

"If she doesn't want to go to her mother, we cannot compel her. That will go beyond the habeas corpus petition. We cannot and like to forcibly others," Reyes said, adding that Batasa was free to go where she wanted.

But Genuro said Gamanio had been prevented from taking Batasa to another hospital, even when they were both ready to leave.

Weeping

After the session was adjourned, a tearful Gamanio clung to Batasa.

The two went to a secluded corner of the courtroom and spoke for several minutes. But in the end, Batasa still chose to go with Rose Anne.

Gamanio continued to shed tears as she watched her daughter, clad only in camouflage fatigues, walk off to her side, a hand on which was linked from inside the vehicle.

And then, from the windows, a crying Rose Anne told her mother: "Mama, ayaw na po nanin sumama sa inyo. Magpa-ka na lang po kayo sa ibang lugar. Ayaw ko na po kayong makita. Mga pinagsabi ninyo yung mga sinasabi nila. Mga sinungaling!"

MARIE GUMANIO'S Tears and fears for daughter's Rose Ann and Patrona

Peasant leader's widow

Maria Gamanio is the mother of peasant leader Eduardo Gumanio who was killed along with human rights advocate Eden Marcellana in April 2006 in Tagaytay City.

Retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan has been blamed for their deaths.

Maria Gamanio earlier alleged that her daughters had been kidnapped by the military, but Batasa and Rose insisted they had left voluntarily.

At yesterday's hearing, Tang said the minors went to the Fort Bonifacio Hospital after Rose Anne sought assistance from her friends in the military to help Batasa, who had been

Batasa said Rose Anne disappeared with Gaviano members.

On the stand, Batasa told the court that she had volunteered to go to the Fort Bonifacio Hospital. She said she was with her friend Rose Anne when she was deputy prime minister. He was fired and the sodomy accusation led to his dismissal from the government and subsequent conviction and imprisonment. His downfall led to massive street protests by his supporters he woke.

No basis for fabrication

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Quick-reaction team

Determined to leave on the truth, the Commission on Human Rights again dispatched a quick-reaction team on Sunday to check on Rose Anne and Batasa at the Fort Bonifacio Hospital.

CHR Chair Leila de Lima ordered the team to talk with the girls and assist their situation, which it failed to do earlier.

"We have to be very precise in dealing with this situation. First, we need to find out which of the two conflicting versions of this case is true and correct," De Lima said in a statement issued yesterday.

"We want to find out the real reason why our team was not allowed to intervene the moment Rose Anne fled. Batasa said she would like to leave the hospital, but as of the Philippine Army's custody of the minor since Rose Anne is not on hold," De Lima said.

Rose Anne, a suspected member of the communist New People's Army, purportedly refused to talk with the CHR team that went to Camp Aguinaldo on Saturday to visit her because she was still feeling weak.

The human rights group Karapatan had earlier reported that the minors were kidnapped by state agents after failing to assist with their conflict at an Alabang mall early this month.

But the Armed Forces of the Philippines said the girls had voluntarily emerged from their Kasapatan custodian and sought the military's help.

Last week, Rose Anne appeared at the Army's Fort Bonifacio headquarters to deny allegations that she and Batasa had been abducted by the military. She also said they were not under duress when they confirmed the AFP's claims.

Seeking help from CHR

Batasa Gamanio had asked the CHR in a letter to look into her daughters' case and to facilitate their transfer to another hospital and seek medical attention from a doctor of their choice.

She also appealed to De Lima to help her in demanding the transfer of their custody to the police.

The CHR will draw up the necessary measures after the team submits its report in a few days. With a report from Anselm H. Cu

₱300-M shabu seized; 5 Sinos arrested

Paraphrased

...shu seized in the 7 a.m. raid were plastic containers of ephedrine and other chemicals, as well as equipment used in the production of shabu. Two vehicles packed in front of the structure—a Toyota Vios and a Toyota Revo—were likewise seized.

At about the same time, another team raided a warehouse of chemicals at Lot 1, Block 13, Doña Justina St., in Filinvest South Subdivision, Bifian, Laguna, according to Maj. Cris Mendiones of PDEA Region 4A.

The simultaneous raids were covered by Search Warrants No. 4923 and 4926 issued by Executive Judge Thelma Bunyi-Medina of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

The raiders were composed of PDEA operatives in Metro Manila and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), policemen led by Senior Supt. Benjie Magalong, were soldiers from the 202nd Infantry Brigade headed by Col. Tristan Kimmis, and the local police force.

A Caucasian wearing a jacket marked "US Drug Enforcement Agency" was among the raiders. He was seen interviewing one of the arrested Chinese, who had a tattoo on his left arm.

Caught in the act

Santiago identified the six men arrested as Chiu Lu Hsiung and Wu Jung Shuen of Taiwan; Lin Hsin Jung, Weng Shi Chiung and Wu Chin Tung of China; and Hilario Nicolas of Nueva Ecija.

Magalong said the laboratory had been classified as "large-scale." He said that based on the estimated 100 kilos of ephedrine that had just been used by the Ah Chong syndicate, the laboratory had a capacity to manufacture 70 kilos of high-grade shabu in a three-day operation.

PDEA chief Dionisio Santiago showed reporters the plastic containers of brownish liquefied shabu that were purportedly kept by the syndicate in five refrigerators.

"Once the liquid has hardened, it will be processed into crystal shabu," Santiago said.

Authorities said the refrigerators were in one of the warehouse's five rooms, and that each room contained chemicals and other raw materials for the production of shabu.

Intel work

Santiago said the raids were the result of intensive intelligence work begun in November 2007.

He said the arrests were a big blow to the Ah Chong syndicate because one of the Chinese nationals were classified as "Class A chemist."

"They are capable of processing high-quality shabu that commands a high price in the market," he said, adding that the syndicate would now be handicapped to restart new chemistry.

Asked whether local politicians and personalities were involved in the illegal drug trade in Quezon, Santiago said without elaborating: "We don't have any links. They're untold ones, no longer confess."

PDEA spokesperson Derrick Carreon said the simultaneous raids were part of the agency's "Cane Operation Plan Ellaro."

The shabu laboratory in Bifian was the fourth dismantled by the PDEA this year.

Last week, the PDEA destroyed P1.3 billion worth of dangerous drugs in Cavite.

The burned drugs included the 753 kilos of shabu seized by authorities at the Subic Free port in May.

Coconut husks

Sarabi Dolorito, barangay captain of Maraparan, said residents that he and other local officials had been made to believe that the warehouse/laboratory was a processing area for coconut husks.

Dolorito said the structure was built in November 2007, and that the activities started more than a month ago.

The structure is being leased by a certain Ivy Vila with postal address at Don Manuel Subdivision, Pila, Laguna. The contract of lease, a copy of which was furnished the business by the PDEA, was signed only on June 20.

The rattling-less structure stands on a 2,500-square-meter land planted with shrubs and surrounded by barbed wire. The roof and walls are made of GI sheets, and two huge exhaust fans are stationed inside the laboratory.

The pathway leading to the structure is cemented, muddy and stone-covered in parts. Water is taken from an electric pair some 100 meters away on the highway.

Barangayon Councilor Gil-mito Verzosa said the entrance to the structure was a gate that was always "closed and locked."

"No one is allowed to enter beyond the gate," he said. With reports from Marivic Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Al-calde Pegu-la Manila

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ACTING ON A TIP ABOUT A PURported shipment of illegal drugs, agents of the Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation set up a checkpoint on the national highway in Real, Quezon, on Oct. 13, 2001.

The agents were able to intercept a government ambulance with sedan carrying half a ton of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) worth about P1 billion at the time.

The ambulance was traveling with Utilities van driven by Mayor Romeo Mika of Pandacan, Quezon. He was arrested along with his security aide, Rust Dequiña, who was riding with him.

Mika's driver, Javier Montilla, who was at the wheel of the ambulance, and Chinese national Willie Yao Ang, who was riding with Montilla were also arrested.

Then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto suspended Mika for six months for gross misconduct and abuse of authority.

The state prosecutor filed drug trafficking charges against the four men based on a criminal complaint filed by the PNP. The case was assigned to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

On Aug. 9, 2007, Judge Ma. Theresa dela Torre-Yadao sentenced Mika and Montilla to life imprisonment and ordered them to pay a fine of P10 million each.

The judge threw out Mika's testimony that he thought the sacks contained tiles and electrical spare parts, and that he agreed to transport them as a favor to a certain Ben Tan, who bought his fishing boat a month earlier.

She said Mika failed to show documentary evidence to support his claim.

Yadao acquitted Yang and Dequiña and ordered their immediate release, saying prosecutors had failed to prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt. — Cynthia L. Balaquiña, Inquirer Research

SHABU WORTH P300M SEIZED HERE Combined operatives from the PDEA, military and police raid the seven warehouses containing about 70 kilos of liquefied shabu. Five Chinese and a Filipino were arrested. ALVIN P. MALAPAJO/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

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Marikina hosts day for disabled

MARIKINA CITY will host a special day for persons with disabilities on Saturday as part of the observance of the 36th National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week.

In a statement, Mayor Lee Jr. officer in charge of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), said a full-filled day at the Riverbanks Center Mall of the city welcomes with disabilities will include a test of Marikina City ordinance on "Personality Development for Persons with Disabilities."

Sessions on photography, paper clay art, face painting and story telling, a cultural show called "MARIKINA," a livelihood lecture by Sony Gerasmio and a live radio broadcast of Inquirer.net's show "Bring Kinnie."

Lee said the week-long observance of the NDPR aims to raise awareness for the plight of those with disabilities urges the government should consider as potential partners in nation-building and as productive members of society. It also aims to make the public aware of the causes of disabilities, rehabilitation and equalization of benefits for the disabled.

Atienza clips LLDA powers over permits

By TJ Burgonio

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO ATIENZA has stripped the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) of its power to regulate property development projects around Laguna de Bay.

Atienza issued an administrative order transferring the regulatory function to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on Tuesday, saying this would "end all horror stories" on the slow issuance of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs).

The LLDA is an attached agency of the DENR, while the EMB is directly under the Secretary.

LLDA general manager Edgar Manda, contacted by phone, said, "If that's what he wants, I have no quarrel with that."

Manda countered that the reported delays in processing permits were traced to Atienza's executives.

"Like everyone else, I want to reduce the processing time," he said, adding that LLDA has managed to reduce the process from 60 days to 30 days.

"If there were any delays in the issuance, this often happened at the Office of the Secretary," he said.

"We transmit these ECCs to the Office of the Secretary for confirmation, and additional delays occur because these do not get signed immediately. That's what my sons told me," he said.

Until the recall, LLDA issued ECCs and lake clearances covering real estate projects, such as subdivisions and condominiums, built around the lake.

After clipping its powers, Atienza told LLDA to focus solely on cleaning up and rehabilitating the Laguna de Bay.

He said the cleanup of the bay, including the dismantling of fishpens and fish cages, was crucial to the rehabilitation of other bodies of water in Metro Manila.

Atienza designated Jose Miguel Cinco as the new officer in charge of issuing ECCs, and directed him to run red tape.

Before they can secure an ECC, project proponents are required to undertake an environmental impact assessment and draw up strategies to minimize pollution in the bay area.

Meanwhile, some 200 small-time fishermen demonstrated in front of the LLDA office in Pasig City to protest plans by the agency to demolish communities around the lake.

The demonstrators, organized by the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas and the Save Laguna Lake Movement, threw about 30 kilos of lanset fish on LLDA entrance, many of them the size of an arm, to warn the agency's "fishy thinking and cursed" priorities.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said that instead of finding ways to rid the lake of lanset fish, which they consider a pest, the agency is focusing on "selling the country's largest lake to the highest bidders and preferred investor-clients."

Hicap said lake fishermen have been complaining for years about the growing schools of lanset fish (Hypseleotris cyprinoides or sachsi/sleeper catfish) which competes for food with the edible fish in the lake and damages fishing nets.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Less sex

EDITORIAL

YOU HAVE TO HAND IT TO ALBAY GOV. JOEY SALCEDA, President Macapagal-Arroyo's favorite ecumenical adviser. He knows how to package a bundle of unsophisticated issues into a sexy-sounding story.

Expect the President to take the side of the Catholic bishops on the ongoing debate on population management, Salceda said the other day. "There's very little pressure for drastic change in the policy which the President says she wants to be continued. Apparently [he added partly in jest], there are no people going out on the streets calling for less sex because it is socially delightful."

In other words, the lobby for the use of artificial family planning is weak or indifferent, or worse.

If Salceda, who enjoys the President's confidence, raised the issue of popular support with His Arroyo's blessings or upon her instruction, then we have one more proof, if more proof were needed, of the commander in chief's overriding pragmatism. The stance she has taken on the issue of family planning or birth control, that of a meek and devout Catholic, turns out to be politically motivated. She is siding with the bishops because there is no political advantage to doing otherwise.

In fact, we think there is a natural and growing constituency for a responsible parenthood program that includes artificial methods of birth control. It just isn't as organized as it ought to be, and is undermined by a readiness to dismiss the Catholic bishops' position as unrealistic, "out of touch."

The idea that bishops who live in palaces do not understand the daily cares of ordinary laypersons is as much a caricature as the notion that businessmen in boardrooms do not appreciate the economic difficulties of ordinary consumers. In fact, it is part of their job.

The Catholic bishops, in other words, are driven by pastoral concerns too. They know (or at least we suppose that most of them do) that the ideal of responsible parenthood codified in "Humanae Vitae" exactly 48 years ago this month places a great burden on married couples. The responsibility is not to be shirked merely because of its weight.

The policy issue facing the national government, therefore, is not whether the bishops understand the plight of ordinary people or whether Catholic politicians can stand up to Church pressure, it is whether the country can balance population with resources.

The distinction given by Quezon Archbishop Jesse Dosado to the priests in his archdiocese to consider denying Holy Communion to pro-abortion Catholic politicians has raised the temperature in an already heated controversy. In a sense, of course, Dosado was merely reminding his priests about their duty to apply canon law. But the pastoral letter (first broadcast beyond the borders of the archdiocese through the website of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines) was an unusual reminder; it served a political purpose too. It showed both the lioness of Reproductive Health and the lioness's cave resolve—or a sign of desperation—on the part of a senior member of the Church hierarchy.

The problem with Dosado's position, however, is that the reproductive health cave bills pending in Congress which can at the center of the controversy do not in fact legalize abortion. He has uncharacteristically the wider range of artificial family planning methods as all abortifacient.

This is hardly a categorical finding; he should not be surprised if members of his own flock think differently.

On the great controversies, the Catholic Church has learned to admit other points of view. Dosado himself, in his pastoral letter, offers an example: "For example, if a Catholic were or he an odds with the Holy Father on the decision to wage war, he would not for that reason be considered unworthy to present himself to receive Holy Communion. There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war, but not about abortion," he said.

That is exactly where we find ourselves today, at a critical juncture where bishops and laity alike discuss whether the "diversity of opinion even among Catholics" about the issues of artificial birth control methods can be considered "legitimate."

In the meantime, the lack of an aggressive policy helps lead to 1.4 million unplanned pregnancies in the country every year. Of that total, a staggering one-third (about 473,000) end in abortion.

The question then previous itself: Why privilege exceptional abortions over actual ones?

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'Chasing after the wind'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WE'RE ON THE BRINK OF A LAST GREAT global land grab," predicts a new study, "Saving People through the Trees." The United Kingdom, Sweden and Switzerland will release this report Monday.

Rolling demand for food and biofuels will ratchet pressure to plow up 215 million hectares of extra land, says the Hadley and Swansea-led. Native [illegible] report. But only 100 million hectares are available. Thus, pressure to clear forests will intensify. Risk environment reporter Richard Black writes. "The dual crises of Fuel and Food are making significant land upends this."

Protecting the rights of people who live in and around vulnerable forests can prevent devastation over a companion REI report, titled "From Destitution to Ownership."

That theme echoes concerns of Asia's foresters. "About 350 million people of the world's poorest people are literally dependent on forests," they noted in the 2000 To Our Multilateral. Yet, they receive crumbs from their thirty-plus-and harvests.

Efforts to reform the timber sector fell into Asia Forest Tenths. The San Jose Timber Complex left 70% of forests straddling protected zones of Isabela's last old-growth forests.

Opaque transactions and shadowy activities characterize timber, notes the new book, "Cut to the Chase." Indigent communities are "first in the line for extensive and punitive government measures."

"Many justify this skewed status quo," Brad and agriculture Organization forester Jacob Dunn notes. "They've traditionally lived much better and not as exceptionally—as timber producers. That's where the real money from forests lie."

"Forestry is not about trees," Dunn recalls Legendary forester Jack Westoby smiles. "It is about people. And it is about trees only insofar as they serve the needs of people."

Yet, "people who live on or in" in isolated patches, yet, Filipinos are nothing management examples, observes Dr. Asia Forestry Commission in their study "In Search of Excellence."

Filipino farmers continue. Less blessings materialize, and you'll be left with nothing.

Log exports ceased in the late 1980s at 10 million metric tons yearly—and smuggled. Today, set sharp he wood from abroad. Timber imports cost the country 10 times what we scrape with. Yesterday's timber "protectionist" is today's wood pangats. And we became a net wood industry not to handle God-given resources.

"The Philippines was effectively the first state in the world to ban the export of raw [illegible] timber — offers a poignant lesson for still forested countries from Cambodia to Suriname."

Have we learned? Think again. Bravo will read the just published book, "Forest Encounters and Negotia in Philippine Forestry." Here a delegate of a 40-suburban truck hauling logs, mostly of hardwood (red lauan and apitong), explains:

"[We] traveled in convoys of four or five vehicles. Each truck had a security force of five men with long-barreled guns. Farmers revealed some 'RELF' members — men of whom did not even have drivers licenses. It took six to seven hours of travel from Lanao del Norte ... to Dipo, Davao del Sur, or Cagayan de Oro.

"Tertiary roads were used. Log-hauling trucks are allowed to pass unchecked through all security checkpoints. Each truck driver is issued a [illegible] Trigger operators in Marawi City was one of those of the Bureau of Customs in the ARMM."

Of the 30 recruited in his bunch, 18 are dead. "They were killed in ambushes when rival groups crossed the tracks and took the cargo. ... Let her rest and don't waste this job again."

The big money doesn't trickle down to grunt clear assets. Before he moved over to the Department of Energy, Angelo Reyes wooed that power to investigators.

"I'm old and can't wait," smiled a more meager reply reproduced in multi-billion Hanjin shipyard project up Subic Bay. Filipino workers are sweating for light. That explains why to-from here seems like "chasing after the wind."

(E-mail: jumbercado@gmail.com)

Penalties

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OUMME ARCHBISHOP JESSE DOSADO HAS uh interesting proposition: Priests should refuse to give Communion to "anti-life politicians." He made this known through a pastoral letter, exemplifying it against the outspokenness who had endorsed Gloria Lagman's reproductive health and population management bill. She was not, the CBCP website quoted Dosado as saying, a sanction against the pro-abortion lawmakers, or a judgment on their subjective guilt. It was merely a mention to a pastoral public manifestation to receive Holy Communion because of "an objective situation of sin."

Treat a dove to put an argument in ways any Amid would love. It's not a penalty or sanction for a priest to ignore someone who is kneeling down in front of him to take nothing out or to refuse the host. It's under while the entire congregation marches!

But I have them to their mental contortions. My beef with it is this:

I may not like Lagman, especially after he acted virtually along with Art de Venecia V and the man Thomas Aquinas and Pedro Peñaso to thwart the impeachment bid against GMA, but he have paid otherwise says the threat is "a grave penalty for a grievous act." He fall does not also abortion, permissive or not, it lowers one. Indeed, it loses it to illegal. What it does it require people to undergo reproductive health and sexuality education. Those are particularly dire times when even dire times we live in the immediate future, it is not only commendable, it is necessary. There's nothing pro-life in the rapidly growing tribe of kids roaming the streets stuffing rugby and budgeting people for abuse.

I know the abortionists to their devices, but I drive the line at the Church threatening hellfire or its equivalent in this life upon those who argue for contraception. The Church's heroism activism on that score. Based on the completely liberal interpretation of God's command to grow and multiply and the proposition that God intended sex so that his creatures might suffer it to procreate, has got to be one of the most terrible, if not the hardest, idea to crawl out of the

Back. Well, that and its human insistence, to fulfill's contamination and incarceration, that has not resolved amongst the court's.

I remember in this respect the complaints of Gerard Rubiego's declaration that the group was soliciting contributions from pharmaceuticals that were manufacturing contraceptives to boost the poor. So what? Did say in a column that it's not so if life was something manufactured from cigarettes or liquor companies, or heroin baked, gambling joints and firearms factories. Which is key the Church itself is doing, many bishops getting their shots from Napoli which has caused them to be smitten blind about this regime's corruption. Surely those detractors do not back but vital abominations in reality, and have those who caused pedro in the form of the impeachment bid against GMA to be millibirds, or those who ignored the will of the people in the form of their votes to be excised and the first thereof wrong.

The challenge me to my other 'lord' with Dosado's proposition. The Church does not lack for ammunition weapons to use against the wicked and unpolitic the threat of excommunication, partial or total, being chief of them. The phrase "no pain of excommunication" remains a real pain for most Filipinos. Surely the Church would employ those weapons to better purpose by having better definitions for our life or indeed having better assumptions for those practicing it.

Can there be anything more anti-life than the wholesale murder of powerless and points of sensitive? Even as I speak, the Empire has just protested vigorously the killing of six another Filipino servicemen, Robert Sison, a radio commentator and newspaper columnist in Surigao, Quezon, calling it an "intolerable violation of a basic human right." Surely the person crime of snuffing of the life of a Filipino person (and vice who happens to be living a public service) ranks above the refusal of Communion than the unpublic one of wrapping the male organ in plastic while in prayer, or arbitrarily takes pains to get pleasure without having consequences?

Just as well, can there be anything more anti-life than wholesale theft and plunder, which takes away the means of life of the citizens? Or since that is putting it too starkly, which pinches away the chump of rice that's about to disappear into the mouth of a hungry child? Surely the World Bank's rating of the Philippines as the most corrupt countries in East Asia qualifies as an "objective situation of sin"? Surely the stinking, if not abortion, of an entire people, physically mentally, politically morally, economically, spiritually, must deserve the denial of the sacraments than a pilgrimage to the malls on the eve of Christmas? Or to help herbs and pigs from marked "pinpoints"?

The Church may like to turn its ire on those who like other people to be so stunted as they are. I won't particularly mind, and indeed will applaud, a priest refusing to give Communion to Jaime Sobrino, his chief, Homosexuals Association of the Philippines, or chief GMA for having run the lives of some of this country's best and brightest, apart from youngest and most idealistic. I won't particularly mind, and indeed will applaud, a priest denying Sergeants Alador Penaroso—the terrible offender who said that "Ang mga sundalo ay walang kinatatakutan" of the SAF, and revoking from the Cabinet secretaries ringtones on the ground that like Michael Corleone they were lying when they said "no" to the question, "Do you renounce Satan and all his works?" And I won't mind. Indeed will applaud, a bishop launching fortnight hurt to the apostolic circle of hell I know reserved for swaps.

They can always tell them it's not really a penalty or sanction.

16 senators favor federalism

BY THE LUNCHEON THURSDAY HOSTED BY South African Ambassador Peter Vermaelen for members of Congress who attended the Inter-Parliamentary Union meetings in Capetown, I spotted Sen. Aquilino Pimentel about his sponsorship of a Senate resolution calling for a shift to the federal system of government. He said that indeed, upon the suggestion of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's colleagues, he was filing their resolution. Later, in a note to me, he confessed, "I thought it was going to be easy. Maybe just a line or two asking the House and the Senate to vote separately on a resolution to adopt the federal system, until Miriam Defensor Santiago's lawyer instincts surfaced and I signed on to be embedded in her Committee Report. But I promised to be more difficult since they have to amend or revise 15 out of the 19 articles of the Constitution and are proposing the inclusion of seventy articles.

Since then Pimentel has gone ahead and filed Joint Resolution No. 18 to adopt a federal system. He says it has the support of 16 senators "in various degrees of commitment," including Sen. Manny Villar. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Senate President Pro Tempore Sergio Osmeña and Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan. He admitted that some senators have reservations on the mode of changing the Constitution, preferring a constituent assembly instead of a constituent body without assembly proposed in the resolution. But despite their reservations, he said they all agree on the need to debate the proposal.

He notes in the fallo of his Solicitors composition of the Philippines" which explains "in layman's terms" the reasons for adopting this system. He sincerely maintains that the last time regions of the country "possess the basic characteristics to justify their existence as 'even remotely' as states of the federalized Republic." He has been a longtime advocate of federalism in view of the fact that his native Mindanao has not developed as fast as "imperial Manila."

He promised in discuss this proposal further at the Sunday 8 p.m. dyRM program Cedric Alvarez and I co-host. Does his resolution propose—or fails—could vastly alter the political landscape now dominated by prospects of national elections scheduled for 2010. Others say if Charter change is to be opened, it shift to the parliamentary system could be a competitive reserve federalism.

* * *

The picture of education here is quite clouded, but most of us agree that so much has to be done to improve it and make it competitive with the rest of our region. We learned Education Undersecretary Alma Luporsio Librados to our radio show and she spoke of one congressional initiative (which, if passed) mandates, could help very much. This is the law passed in 2004 establishing the "Adopt-A-School Program" which provides tax incentives for donors who contribute from a menu of assistance options. This includes the training of math teachers, who, if the program is fully adopted, and the construction of toilets in public schools, a project I'll endorse to the heavy lifters and other civic organizations. Librados also hinted for the program which, she says, could be another state reform in our modern financially lean government is the availability of the "Quick Response Fund," which enables the Department of Education to respond quickly to destruction brought to schools by disasters and calamities.

On a personal note, Librados claimed how she and her 11 siblings, who were orphaned at a very early age, were able to overcome poverty and succeed in their careers due to the tenacity of their eldest sister. It's this kind of inspiring story found in so many Filipino families. Maria Lagos-Nieva was only 16 when she found herself having to raise 11 siblings. She sewed clothes and peddled them in the market where she also engaged in hog-and-sell of foodstuffs and other commodities, often with two-year-old Vilma in tow. The only thing Nieva asked of them was that they study hard, and they supported her by running scholarships while working for various degrees in different schools. One sibling who was not academically inclined did it his way, working as a janitor while studying in college and ending up at Ring Global Support in South Korea as security personnel.

* * *

The US presidential elections are taking a more interesting turn, just month, the gap between Democratic candidate Barack Obama and Republican candidate John McCain was about 9 points in the polls, but three or four days ago it went down to 5.6 percent. Yesterday it stood at 4 percent, which is considered a statistical dead heat, given that undecided voters make up about 12 percent. Gallup is pointing out that the bounce Obama got from Democratic National Convention is fading, and our woman may be that events are able to focus on his working record in war here and perception that he can handle international security issues. Obama's campaign, however, is saying that events have not shifted in Obama's favor and expect to be drifting more from his liberal stance on many issues. But McCain's drumbeats is the perception that he's quite old and not in the pink of health.

* * *

I'd like to invite readers to join the Indie Foundation and the rest of the Indie Group founded by Peter Jones in a most enjoyable concert at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16, at Greenbelt Chapel. This is the second Indie Day, which is the brainchild of Jones' talented wife Jennifer Sabasaz or Indie Foundation. Call Gerry, 0918-9445-833 or Carmen or Kamie at 753-5198 or 753-4527. Corporate donations are tax deductible.

46664

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Cerez P. Duyo

Illness have for cattle, not only as a source of food and wealth, but as a blessing from God and a source of happiness. It was in the fields that I learned how to knock birds out of the sky with a slingshot, to gather wild honey and fruits and roll. So many, in my childhood, were the days I spent in the soldier of a cow, to swim in the river, cold streams, and to catch fish with nets and cheap-tasted bits of wire.... From these days, I date my love of the rural, of open spaces, the deep, humbles of nature, the drama of the changing seasons.

I had studied "in third world, sweet with straight from the udder of a cow." I thought, how romantic. how primal, how spiritual indeed. Upon reading that paragraph, I was back in my room and imagined the adult Mandela in his dungeon, deprived of the soil, the open spaces he so loved as a child.

Here are excerpts from Mandela's account about his first day in school. He wasn't the city baby that today's boys go to school opening day.

"The schoolhouse consisted of a single room, with a Western style roof, on the other side of the river. I knew I would be punished if I was late for my first day before I was in Qunu, my father took me aside and told me that I must be dressed properly for school. Until that time, I, like all the other boys in Qunu, has worn only a blanket, which was wrapped around the body and pinned at the neck with a safety pin. My father took a pair of his trousers and cut them at the knee. He told me to put them on, which I did, and they were roughly the correct length, although the crotch was far too long. My father then took a piece of string and stitched the trousers at the waist. I must have been a comical sight, but I was extremely proud. I was a man! It was preacher to wear these my father's cast-off trousers.

On the first day of school, my teacher, Miss Mdingane, gave each of us an English name, and told that from thenceforth that was the name we would be known by in school. This is the common among Africans in those days and was undoubtedly due to the British bias of our education. The reasoning I received was a British education, in which British ideas, British culture, and British institutions were automatically assumed to be superior. There was no such thing as African culture.... That day Miss Mdingane told me that my new name was Nelson. Why she bestowed this particular name upon me I have no idea.

* * *

46664 is also the name of a global response to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Mandela wants to use the symbolic power of this number in the fight against the dreaded disease. Because foreign aid for anti-retroviral drugs has been in decline, he is now using this 46664 code to promote the campaign.

The 46664 campaign began in 2003 when Mandela was faced with not only his own mortality but also the fact that his son had died of AIDS. He has since enlisted many celebrities to help him in the campaign. In the recent run-up to Mandela's 90th birthday, London was the venue for a big happening.

"I can't think back on my childhood without Mandela's smile. When I walked out of prison, that was my mission, to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor, for both.... I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made many steps along the way but I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken moments here to rest, to admire the view of the splendor around me, but I can only rest for a few moments, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended."

* * *

Send feedback to rrosa@gmail.com

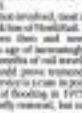
Keeping our railway on track

RAILWAYS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONTROVERsial, politically. The Americans weren't too keen on them, preferring to build roads and highways. Filipino leaders complained that the American colonizers were in bed with huge American automobile industry. Americans countered that Filipino politicians liked railroads because they could stuff them with cronies and hand out tickets to supporters.

Be that as it may, by the turn of the century to the 1930s, when executive control of the government finally passed to Filipinos and railroad planning could start in a big way. Seventy years ago, in 1938, the Philippine Railway Co. finished its biggest project in Camarines Sur, a golden road was driven into a railroad tie, marking the meeting point of the north and south railroad lines and so officially linking Manila and Legazpi City by rail. Words advertised about the Manila to Legazpi railroad service and proposals began to be studied for a Mindanao railway.

The Mindanao railway, quite early on, was going to be a big deal. Planning began in the 1920s. The harrowing of Maria Cristina falls to produce hydroelectric power began as a means to provide the railway with its energy requirements. By then plans were skewed aside by World War II, which left the Philippine Public Service Line a hydroelectric power source, plans for a Mindanao railway had been abandoned. We're still debating the need for one 70 years after the idea was put on the drawing board.

Right now, today's ambitious Northrail and Southrail projects will mostly revive passenger and freight services and bring them back to pretourist line, and in some cases, even pre-war levels. It took Marcos' time, in the 1970s, to complete the restored a commuter rail system 40 years after the destruction of the Western Tutuba or elevated railroads in decline, however, prior to the late 1960s, were expansions of line were opened. It is time, now, for another Marcos to expand the LRT to where we are now—and it's already getting overwhelmed, with future expansion imperiled, among other reasons, by site clearing so many different systems that can't interconnect (MRT-3 has different



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

coaches from the two main lines of the LRT, which can't share coaches, either).

But there is also extensive involved, most obviously in the Manila to Clark line or Northrail.

The difference between then and now, of course, is that we're in an age of increasingly expensive gasoline, and the "inexpensive" way to move cargo in the economy should prove tremendous. The Manila-Legazpi rail service is a case in point: it came to an end because of flooding in 1975, although in 1983 it was briefly restored, but subsequently abandoned.

If a locomotive ever manages to make the journey from Manila to Legazpi again, it will mostly signal the restoration of the status quo ante 1983 but it could also revolutionize the movement of people and cargo. I recently had dinner in the middle of nowhere on the highways and so forth. The same applies on the North, where Metro Manila's vegetables have to pay both informal and formal toll fees.

Still and really, this is the harsh reality of transporting people and goods in our country. To get from point A to point B requires submitting to formal and informal extortion. There's a reason the term "highway robbery" entered common use, and it's the vulnerability of cargo and people to brigands and extortionists, both in and out of uniform.

In other industrialized countries have been handed from our privatized highways (North and South), to their operators, you would expect it's just going to collar when you look at the composition of the boards of directors of the firms that now run them. Still, there are problems along the border roads, and the cost of passing off to many armed parties is passed on to the consumer (and various fees in

My diary malady

THE DIARY MALADY, THAT IS THE DESIRE, MYSTERIOUS. I am governed by the impulse to have every part of my life immortalized on paper. I have this compulsion to write about that girl who, like fleeting leaves in her armpits, the teacher after her illusions of mending the guy who has the power to make or break me and the other guy who has pimples who has the power to make me faint.

I cannot identify the cause of this affliction; all I can do is speculate. My diary disorder could be genetic. My mom started keeping a diary when she was 25 years old because it was the fashionable thing back then. Unfortunately she got hooked on this trend. In fact, she was so dedicated to writing in her diary that even though she was forbidden from staying up late by her parents, she would still write by candlelight. No wonder she now has poor eyesight.

This diary disease would also quite possibly have stemmed from my experiences as an only child. Being self-absorbed is a chronic illness of an only child. I had the full attention of my mother. Whenever I cried, talked or tugged, she had no choice but to listen to me. Being the only kid in the house, I also became the locus of my grandparents. Thus, I was given all the best clothes, all the latest toys and all the delicacies food. All this made it very easy for me to become self-centered.

However, being an only child also led to feelings of isolation. I had a lot of board games, but my opponent was often "kiddy theory three or Pikachu." Talking to other kids was explained and talking to inanimate objects, or so I like, I used to give life by giving them names and even voices. An example, Wacky the rabbit had a girly voice, while Iron the Robot doll had a manly voice.

When I entered kindergarten, I was so enthusiastic to meet kids that I became this weirdo who always hovered in on other people's conversations, thus, earning me the title of "STALKER." Maybe I should thank disapproval of my habitual self-expression with audio comments, raised eyebrows or cries of shame.

My desire to assert myself was repressed. So, just like all forms of repression, this was never fully silenced. That is why I became attracted to the idea of keeping a diary. Through my diary, I was able to express myself without having to be self-absorbed and the desire to hide myself from the world. Through my diary, I became an opinionated interviewer, directing several pages to the expression of my identity while my interviewed self was kept at peace by withholding my personal information from the rest of the world.

That childhood part of my life started with a basic two-exchange gifts may kinds when I was in Grade 3. I was not too enthusiastic about giving gifts and so I just picked up the closest, and therefore most unloved, squishy stuffed from my box of toys, wrapped it and brought it to our buffet dish Christmas party. When the gifts were randomly exchanged, I had the good luck of getting a diary with a cute teddy bear design. I was very happy—until I saw the look on the face of the girl who got my loved, orange stuffed toy. At first instead, I thought I had the worthy owner of the beautiful gift that I received.

That was when my crazy habit began. At my desire to be the best diary owner in the world, I started to become obsessed with it. I started putting entry titles, tons of contents and page numbers in my diary. After I filled up my first diary, I bought another one, and then another one, and another. Then, I started putting column numbers on each diary and started giving them names based on their cover design. So the I have 14 diaries under the names "pink diary," "blue diary," "Hello Kitty diary," "heart diary," "tie-tac diary," "fashion diary," "flower and clock diary," "music girl diary," "bow diary," "poem-writing diary," "cool stubborn notes diary," "eyeglasses stubborn notes diary," "survival diary," "why talk why diary" and "kitty cutie diary."

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Some people, when they get diagnosed, open their Bibles at random and find themselves reading solutions to their problem. I find myself doing the same with my diary.

This diary-opening habit started just like any other Bible-opening habit. One time, I was stricken with self-doubt when I thought of opening my diary. I found myself reading a page where I proudly and arrogantly proclaimed my own greatness. I felt considerably better after this, and was motivated to do my homework. My habit of diary-to-confidence equal mantra had inspiring words that will uplift my spirit.

Knowing all of these things, my present diagnosis is this: My diary disease, which has played a big part in maintaining my sanity and my means of self expression and inspiration, will be very hard to cure. So long as I have writing possibilities, adventures to believe and individuals to wistfully serenade, I will always be afflicted and cursed by my obsession to have my life inscribed on paper forever.

Jasmine T. Cruz, 20, is a III Management student at the Ateneo de Manila University.

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Employers not always bad; good officials still exist

THIS IS IN REACTION TO NIÑA CRUZ'S JULY 9 column titled "How about workers abused by their employers?"

Cruz painted such a grim picture of the justice system here, in our country, focusing on what he called the "slow wheels of justice" and on bribery which he claimed is very rampant. What caught my attention was how he zeroed in on the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC).

I don't know what personal grudge Cruz has against the NLRC, but I do feel that his column was grossly unfair and one-sided. Short of saying that everyone in the NLRC can be easily bought or bribed (sige, they are all corrupt), he also gave the impression that in the Philippines, employers can easily abuse their workers.

Two things I would like to point out:

Firstly, perhaps we should look at the other side of the coin. There also are scheming, opportunistic workers. There are good employers who become victims of employees receiving just compensation and yet those employees don't have the very thing they are expected to. Some even exploit their liberties. There are those who are given the correct separation pay and, after accepting and using it up, file charges against their employers. All to happen of getting more money without having to work for it. Private citizens and I can say even experience. I can say that the employers are not always the "bad guys."

Secondly, perhaps we should not be too hasty in concluding that the whole NLRC is corrupt. Ms. Cruz, there are commissioners you talked about. They took lead in appeal to that of a justice of the Court of Appeals. Let us give them this respect that they deserve.

Maybe there are people in the NLRC who can be bribed. I will not refute that. But to generalize and depict all of them as such is truly unfair. I would like to believe that there still are commissioners, judges, lawmakers out there who have integrity, who are hard-working, and who live and work by their principles. Let us not be too quick to crucify them all.

So, let us pray for the improvement of the whole justice system. But let us also be fair. Not all employers are abusive, not all public servants are corrupt. Let us not vilify our public servants but give them the respect that they deserve. If we cannot appreciate them, at the very least, let's give them a break and just let them do their jobs.

—ROLAIDS BALBO,
Makati City

Sona's theme: 'Ramdam ang Kaunlaran'?

IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME, PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo will be delivering her State of the Nation Address (Sona).

Definitely, the odds are would rest of her under the banner of "Ramdam ang Kaunlaran."

President Arroyo would probably boast of the same lame achievements being touted on tarpaulins all over Metro Manila—78,440 new classrooms, 1,745 Barkin ng Bayan outlets, 11,834 Sindikato ng Sumagot and 5,874 Yoshi Sushi outlets. She would probably brag about the rice access card and the one-time P500 emergency fund given to Metro patients who consumed less than 100 kilowatts in one month.

It is doubtful that she will mention the 38 oil price increases this year alone (not including the increases since her last Sona), the 11.4 billion-peso tax on the anticommercial increase in the price of commercial rice and the recent "disappearance" of the P16.25 VAT rice from the market.

We fear challenge President Arroyo to say one thing: her Sona that she emphatically refused to repeal the EVAT which would have meant an immediate P4-5 rollback in the price of oil. We dare her to admit that she would rather expose senseless commentary to look over the prices of goods and commodities than impose a price ceiling as mandated by law. And when she proudly announces the P500 wage increase, let her also say that the wage hike has long been negated by the unabated price increases since 2004. The seven years of wage-increase drought under her term.

In short, we challenge President Arroyo to admit that she is to blame for the woes of 90 some families. But that, perhaps, would be expecting too much because should she tell the truth, she only devote semi-answer in order in her to step down. And we all know honesty and decency are words unknown to the President.

—GERONE SOLO,
secretary general,
Gabriela, gabriela_secretary@yahoo.com

TIRED OF PRICE HIKES. Protesters rally in front of an oil company's office in Makati.

Removal of VAT on oil won't stop price increases

THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE VAT on oil appears tempting indeed. ("Tempting, but..." Inquirer, 7/10/08) But whether that is the solution to the problem of high consumer prices is questionable. We all know that oil have absolutely no control over oil prices. There are price issued solely by supply and demand.

Oil prices could easily go up to $200 a barrel, then what? There are some quarters suggesting that the government bring back regulatory pricing, which means subsidizing petroleum products when their prices are high and overpricing them when their prices are low. What happens then when prices do not come down? Do we keep on subsidizing? Up to what point? Where do we get the money? Will we use taxes to raise other taxes to fund the subsidy? We will end up paying for the price just the same only in a disguised form. Or, we, and this is what I fear—we it had happened in other countries...it comes in galloping inflation. So you take out the VAT on oil now and effectively make oil cheaper compared to other goods and services. Will that not just increase energy dependence because oil has become cheaper relative to other goods?

I am one who has been feeling the pain of high petroleum prices. I have chosen to drive less, i.e., I leave the car home a week and commute to work and take public transportation on weekends. I know I have to make drastic lifestyle changes in response to high energy prices. I don't want to be deluded into thinking that monitoring around with the VAT on oil products would make things easier on consumers, the exact opposite. How can that happen when the effect of petroleum prices on the poor is very much diluted compared to their effect on the middle income earners.

In other words, it is very much wishful thinking for us to believe that lifting the VAT on the price of fuel will have a major impact on current prices. Tell me, if oil hits $200 a barrel, what other tax we will we cut. The proposal to lift the VAT was floated when oil was only $70 a barrel. The idea of bringing back regulatory pricing came about at around the same time. Do you think that if we had run the VAT then, we would have stopped the inflationary burden to our citizens. We have to learn the hard facts of economics.

We have to learn that the free market makes its own natural adjustments no matter how much it hurts. When we force markets (or non-markets) of any product worse others, we effectively subsidize that product and disrupt the natural price mechanisms in our economy. When we monkey around with the law of supply and demand, we will all lose eventually. Who was it that remarked that we should repeal the law of supply and demand? We would naturally be doing this if we lifted the VAT on basic petroleum prices.

Has anyone repealed the laws of nature and succeeded? Why then are we even thinking of doing it, good statesmen notwithstanding?

—GIS EBRO,
gisebro@yahoo.com

Thanks for Lea's column

I READ THE NEWSPAPER LIST JULY 3 AND learned that Lea Salonga will be having her own column in the Inquirer.

Just want to say "thank you" to the person who suggested this.

—BJS

Many other persons in the Inquirer had the same in their mind. We are the final!—Editor in Chief

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, O'Tone Bayer Avenue, corner Tagaro and Alejandro Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to 896-6785, 897-0785, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

We have a letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter whose such information is supplied.

AN APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT

17 July 2008

HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Malacañang Palace, Manila

Dear Madame President,

At the outset, we would like to express our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families of the hundreds of passengers who became victims of the tragedy that befell upon the MV "Princess of the Stars" of Sulpicio Lines, Inc. at the height of the storm "Frank". It is understandable that losing family members in that sea tragedy is truly emotionally overwhelming to the point that knee-jerk reactions by the concerned authorities is driven by what may be perceived as the popular demand, rather than a prudent and rational response from these maritime industry governing bodies. We all eagerly await the results of an investigation that Government investigating bodies conduct so that the corresponding sanctions and penalties are imposed on the responsible parties.

The suspension of operations of all Sulpicio Lines, Inc. passenger/cargo ferry vessels may have seemed to suppress this monumental grief, but consequently it is taking its toll on the industry, affecting not only the passenger and cargo services but also the other shipping operators in the inter-island transport chain. The emerging negative impact of the suspension of operations of a major maritime industry organization is now presenting an economic backfire on our numerous medium to smaller shipping companies serving the inter-island feeder routes. It is more than likely that this backlog will multiply and affect the national economy as the suspension continues with no clear direction in sight.

It is our understanding that these suspended vessels of Sulpicio Lines, Inc. have all undergone re-inspections and were re-surveyed by the Maritime Industry Authority and any deficiencies found were minor and already rectified so that these vessels can be considered seaworthy. It is quite appalling that while only one ship figured in the accident, the operation of the entire ferry fleet of Sulpicio Lines, Inc. is being suspended. There appears to be no further legal and factual bases to suspend its operations indefinitely and aggravate the economic adversities in the shipping sector.

Unknown to the general public, the shipping industry is the most regulated transport sector in the country. Every move we undertake is subject to Government intervention, restrictions, regulations, and fees. Between the Marina and the Philippine Coast Guard, there is every opportunity for them to inspect and apprehend our vessels for the most insignificant deficiency. In spite of this, it is sad to realize that while the shipping industry has notably improved due to our substantial investments and sacrifices, the Government has done nothing to help the shipping sector ease our financial burden to offer these services.

We are now further alarmed at the reports that the Government is considering taking over the management of the Sulpicio Lines, Inc. We respectfully submit that it would be an act of deprivation of property without due process of law, which violates the Bill of Rights under our Constitution, not unlike that during Martial Law. While the Constitution provides for a "takeover power" under Article XII, Section 17 and implemented under Section 24 of the Domestic Shipping Act, there must be a national emergency before the State may temporarily take over or direct the operations of any vessel engaged in domestic trade and commerce. We honestly believe there is no cogent reason for the Government to take over the operations of Sulpicio Lines, Inc. Certainly, the sinking of the MV "Princess of the Stars", as tragic as it is, does not qualify to be such a national emergency. Furthermore, the said takeover power can be exercised only if Congress grants emergency powers.

Putting Sulpicio Lines, Inc. under new management is therefore not a credible solution to prevent more sea disasters, and will definitely not alleviate the increasing sea transport backlog. This move to take over Sulpicio Lines, Inc. will all the more demoralize all the players in the shipping industry burdened already with skyrocketing prices for fuel, steel, and other related expenses.

Hence, in the light of all the foregoing, we humbly pray that Your Excellency will recall the suspension order on the ferry operations of Sulpicio Lines, Inc. and allow it to resume its operations sooner so that all vessels in the feeder routes would no longer be adversely affected and may instead continue to serve the public safely and efficiently.

Very respectfully yours,

MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE RORO SHIPPING ASSOCIATION, INC.
MEMBERS OF THE UNITED TRAMPERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (UTAP)
and
MEMBERS OF THE VISAYAN ASSOCIATION OF FERRYBOAT AND COASTWISE SERVICE OPERATORS (VAFCSO)

1. ALESON SHIPPING LINES INC.
2. ASIAN MARINE TRANSPORT CORPORATION
3. BLUE MAGIC FERRIES CO., INC.
4. CANDANO SHIPPING LINES, INC.
5. CENTURY TRANSPORT CO., INC.
6. CORALIONG SHIPPING LINES, INC.
7. CSGA FERRY CORPORATION
8. DANILO LINES, INC.
9. DIMC SHIPPING, INC.
10. E.B. AZNAR SHIPPING CORP.
11. EASTERN PACIFIC SHIPPING CORP.
12. EDAGO LIGHTERAGE PHILS., INC.
13. EVER LINES, INC.
14. FAL SHIPPING CORPORATION
15. FDA SHIPPING LINES, INC.
16. FJP LINES, INC.
17. FORTUNE SEA CARRIER, INC.
18. GABISAN SHIPPING LINES, INC.
19. GALAXY TRANS NATIONAL INC.
20. GEMINI SHIPPING LINES
21. GEORGE & PETER LINES, INC.
22. GOLD STAR SHIPPING LINE
23. GOLDEN BRIDGE SHIPPING
24. GOLDEN LINES, INC.
25. HARMONY EXPRESS TRANSPORT CORP.
26. ISLAND SHIPPING CORPORATION
27. J & N SHIPPING LINES, CORPORATION
28. JADESTAR SHIPPING LINES, INC.
29. JEHAN SHIPPING CORPORATION
30. JOMALIA SHIPPING CORPORATION
31. JONES CARRIER, INC.
32. JPS SHIPPING CORP.
33. JVP LINES, INC.
34. KEPPEL CEBU SHIPYARD, INC.
35. KERRY LINES, INC.
36. KEYWEST SHIPPING CORPORATION
37. KINSWELL SHIPPING LINES, INC.
38. LAPU-LAPU SHIPPING LINES, CORPORATION
39. LILIGENE SHIPPING LINES
40. LITE SHIPPING CORPORATION
41. MAGNOLIA SHIPPING CORP.
42. MANDAUE SHIPPING & LIGHTERAGE CORP.
43. MARINE TECHNIQUES, INC.
44. MARU TRANSPORT INC.
45. MATSYA SHIPPING LINES CORPORATION
46. MAYPALAD SHIPPING CORP.
47. MEDALLON TRANSPORT CORP.
48. MICHAEL, INC.
49. MILLENIUM SHIPPING CO., INC.
50. MONTENEGRO SHIPPING LINES
51. OCEAN FAST FERRIES INC.
52. PHILHARBOR FERRIES CORPORATION
53. PKS SHIPPING CO., INC.
54. PLATINUM SHIPPING CORP.
55. PREMIER SHIPPING LINES, INC.
56. POWER SHIPPING CORPORATION
57. ROBLE SHIPPING LINES, INC.
58. SEAFORD SHIPPING LINES, INC.
59. SEEN SAH SHIPPING, INC.
60. SEA-TECH TRANSPORT, INC.
61. SIMPOI SHIPPING CORPORATION
62. SMC SHIPPING & LIGHTERAGE CORP.
63. SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRANSPORT CORPORATION
64. SRN FAST SEACRAFTS INC.
65. SUNLINE SHIPPING CORPORATION
66. TALISAY SHIPPING LINES
67. TRANS-ASIA SHIPPING LINES, INC.
68. TRI-STAR MEGALINK CORPORATION
69. UNILINK SHIPPING CORP.
70. VILLA SHIPPING LINES
71. WHALE SHIPPING CORPORATION
72. WILLIAM MICHAEL CORPORATION

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Villagers remember antimining leader

By Nico Catherine Calliga
San Fernando, Siburan Island

EVERY MORNING, Perlita Rodaje, 67, waters the flowers around the base of Arnulo Mateo which was built on the exact spot here in Barangay Espalo in San Fernando town in Siburan Island in Romblon province where he was killed on Oct. 3, 2007.

Perlita lives in a house about 20 meters away from where Arnulo was shot dead.

Each night, she she saves kids to light the lamp that would cast a glow at the sculptured face of the town councilor who was gunned down after leading a protest of 100 islanders against the nickel exploration project of Siburan Nickel Property Development Corp. (SNPDC) on the island.

Asked why she cares for the bust, Perlita, a colleague of Arnulo in the Siburanons Against Mining Movement (SAM), said "I just feel I need to do it."

But Perlita, Arnulo's seven-year relative knows why. She says the people love him because he sacrificed his life to be at the forefront of the people's outcry to stop mining.

Before town she was preparing the meal of the protesters when she heard gunshots ring out. She rushed to find out what happened and saw her husband sprawled on the ground with blood still seen his face.

Arnulo's sister Mary Ann narrates from the window of the mining company appeared to be the only bullet the people had traded for more.

Arnulo, mediated between the protesters and the mining firm's employees, the chief security guard Mario Obsiniana Elago and mother Jess Ladera who were confused on arrest eye witness.

Arnulo asked the protesters to let the vehicle pass but the angry villagers refused," recalls Mary Ann.

As he just asked the mining employees to drive back, adds Mary Ann.

"I saw him guiding them on their way but that is when the shots, we heard gunshots," she says.

Prosecutor Ludovico Orbista said found him lying face down with blood oozing from his neck.

According to villagers, the driver of the jeepney pointed a gun at Arnulo's mouth and killed him.

Right after the incident, Elago surrendered to the police, He is presently detained at the Romblon provincial jail while two of his companions were reportedly out on bail.

A graduate of Civil Engineering at the Feati University, Manila, 44, was the first antimining activist in the town to be killed since the 2006 in the country down 2001.

Domingo, Arnulo's 66-year-old father, says the big number of people who sympathized with their family after Arnulo's death eased the pain they felt.

He remembers that Arnulo's body had to be carried around the island across the towns of Magdiwang, Cajidiocan and San Fernando because of the request of the residents.

He showed a video footage showing around 200 motorcycle riders and about 5,000 people who joined the motorcade to the cemetery where he was laid to rest.

"Alot of people loved Mario the time was we loved him," he says.

Domingo adds that the ban, which is provided on top of such laws preferred, was the idea of the clergy to remind the people of his deeds.

He says the priests in Siburan helped gather funds for the bust which was constructed in March early this year and unveiled last May.

"The bust was built to memorialize his sacrifices and the villagers' pursuit to stop the mining activities that they believe would damage their treasured mountains," says Rev. Father Joey Valencia, parish priest of Barangay Espalo, the village here where the republic of nickel ore begins.

Siburan Island is famous for Mt. Guiting-Guiting, a national park, where at ten feet above the towns of San Fernando, Cajidiocan and Magdiwang.

The island has been compared to Isla Fernandina, an archipelago in South America which teems with unique species.

Cantingas River, notable as the country's cleanest river, is also located in Siburan.

According to World Wild Fund for Nature, Siburan is home to six mammals found nowhere else, 700 vascular plant species, of which 37 are endemic, and more than 130 bird species.

Villagers say that during to discuss when their crops get destroyed, they turn to the sea to fish but when the sea gets disturbed they seek refuge in the mountains.

People fear that the ups of the mountains as a result of mining would cause landslides and flash floods.

"If that happens, where will we go?" anxiously asks Mrs. Mabanag, 42, a resident of Barangay Espalo.

Valencia says the people have are already tired of government officials' lies.

The incumbent San Fernando Mayor Ramon Domingo promised that during his election campaign that the would do everything to stop mining the side.

"But just two months after she won the elections, she told the people she couldn't do anything stop it."

In previous conversations with the reporter, Domingo said she would not do anything to block mining because permits were already signed when she assumed office.

After reading all the documents, she found out that the mining corporation followed the legal process.

Valencia, however says, the people were never consulted before the approval of the mining applications.

The people still find hope in this case, Valencia says, because they feel they are not alone and they are determined to wage the fight.

(TOP) A BUST was built in memory of an antimining leader who was killed last year. (Left) Mt. Guiting-Guiting overlooks the town of San Fernando where a nickel exploration project is being processed.

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Across the NATION

Mindanao products stranded in ports

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—TRADERS AND AGRIculture officials in Mindanao expressed grave concern over continued restrictions in cargo movement as a result of a ban on Sulpicio Lines following the sinking of the *MV Princess of the Stars*.

Leaders of various business groups and officials of the agriculture department said they were starting to feel because the movement of agricultural products primarily had been suspended.

They said the effect of this could be felt in Luzon and Metro Manila, where most of Mindanao's produce are sent.

"The ban is becoming detrimental to business," Rodolfo Mollon, president of the Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce, said.

Mollon said it is a fact that Sulpicio is a major player in the shipment of agricultural products and livestock from Mindanao.

"The ban is affecting us because 40 percent of cargo traffic goes through Sulpicio," he said.

Leahyn Ramos, director of the Department of Agriculture in Northern Mindanao, said it is the small farmers, who are most affected by the ban on Sulpicio.

"Most of the farmers in our region are entrepreneurs, their products have a market outside of Mindanao," she said.

In Surigao City, engineer Rodel Mahusa, of the North Surigao Agriculture and Fisheries Council, said farmers are already complaining about the lack of means to transport their products to Luzon and other parts of the country.

"During our meeting on Tuesday, farmers from Davao and General Santos City were also complaining because their products are rotting. They were not able to bring them to Manila because of the ban," Mahusa said.

Like Bislig, Mahusa said Mindanao supplies the bulk of agricultural products consumed in many parts of the country.

"The government has to do something, the government knows its figures," Mahusa said.

He warned that unless the ban is lifted, areas dependent on Mindanao products would eventually open lanes a shortage in agricultural products.

"If the present situation remains to be the same for days without any substitute cargo ships to Luzon ports," he said.

Ramos agreed, saying that Luzon is experiencing difficulty in the supply of food now because of the typhoons.

She said the government could even consider calamity by lifting the ban on Sulpicio.

"I think the ban should be lifted if all things are already settled. Unlike Sulpicio, Luzon needs our products now," she said.

Ramos later also urged by typephone," Ramos said.

"I'm telling you, 50 percent of agricultural product movement from Mindanao is carried by Sulpicio (Lines)," Mahusa said.

Mollon said the Oro Chamber held a meeting on Tuesday during which, they decided to draft a letter of appeal to Malacañang.

"The ban should be lifted soon because it is already affecting the movement of goods," he said.

Mollon said the government should exempt cargo ships owned by the company while investigations on the ferry disaster continue.

"I am referring to cargo ships only, not passenger ships of Sulpicio," he said.

Mahusa said there is really no alternative to Sulpicio at this time.

"The Philippine Navy could use possibly ship our products to Manila," he said.

Mahusa admitted there are other shipping companies but they could not fill the gap left by the ban on Sulpicio.

"The port in Davao City is very large but there is lack of carriers. The products are at the port and are rotting now," he said.

In Ampayon in Butuan City agriculturist Oscar Palacar said the ban would also affect production in Mindanao because the movement of farm inputs will be restricted. *Julia Alipala, Edwin Fernandez and Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Waste of 200,000 bags of NFA rice draws protest from farmers' group

By Nestor P Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—PROTESTERS picketed the National Food Authority office here to demand accountability for the rotting of at least 200,000 bags of rice that are now waiting to an NFA warehouse office in Barotac Nuevo in town when flood struck this city at the height of Typhoon "Frank."

At least 50 members of the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) brought placards as they rallied in front of the NFA regional office to demand the agency free the rotting the bags of rice in the NFA warehouse in Barangay Quintin Salas, Jaro District here.

"It is so ironic that while farmers and other poor people have been going hungry because of high prices of rice,

A PROTESTER protests at a picket by militants outside the NFA office in Iloilo City.

tons of thousands of bags of rice are rotting here," said Edgar Pelayo, regional council member of the farmers' group Pamanggas, a group allied with Bayan.

Pelayo said months before the typhoon struck, they have already been asking the NFA to release the rice to push down the soaring price of commercial rice.

The estimated value of the rotting rice was P142.5 million.

Residents near the NFA warehouse have complained of foul smell coming from the rotting rice.

Heddy Jandelosa, NFA provincial manager, said NFA must have been working overtime to dispose of the spoiled rice.

"We know the magnitude of the problem and we also want to get rid of it because our employees are the ones who are suffering more from the pollution," Jandelosa said in a telephone interview.

Gov't execs say Panay needs ₱15B to rehabilitate typhoon-hit areas

By Nestor P Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—GOVERNMENT agencies need a P15-billion rehabilitation fund for areas in Panay Island ravaged by Typhoon "Frank."

Raul Daniles, presidential assistant for Western Visayas, said the fund would likely come from a special allocation from Congress similar to the P900-million fund allocated for response and rehabilitation for areas devastated by the Ormoc oil spill in Guimaras.

Barrias, who was designated by President Macapagal-Arroyo to head the Task Force Ilonggo Panay, said the rehabilitation could take at least two years.

"Damage to infrastructure alone includes 26 bridges in Panay," Barrias said in an interview.

He said bidding rules and procedures for the release of the funds would be "relaxed."

"It can also be an opportunity to institute funds so there should be proper checks and balances," he said.

Among the areas hardest hit was Iloilo City, where a defense team on a proposed early flood warning system that was never implemented.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the proposed system had been incorporated in the Iloilo-Dumangas control project, but it was never carried out.

Brendo Gervasio, DENR forester, recalled that the department first broached the idea of a flood warning system in 2004 when flood control project was still on the drawing board.

Gervasio said the DENR made the proposal at an interagency consultation forum, led by the Department of Public Works and Highways-Project Management Office (DPWH-PMO) in Iloilo City four years ago.

"I suggested (during the forum) to early warning system (in the floodway project) that will be positioned in strategic areas of the river system (which will empty into the floodway) to provide precautions," Gervasio told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

He said he told the forum participants about the need for securing spares, which would monitor changes in stream flow, for quick response in flooding.

Gervasio said the system he proposed could monitor precipitation in the hinterlands, particularly at the Manoc Watershed, to lessen the hazards of flash floods in low-lying areas.

The Manoc Watershed is the main source of two major rivers, Tigum and Aganan, which were the main cause of flooding in the Metro Iloilo area, particularly Iloilo City and Pavia areas.

The floodway, which would be completed in 2010, aims to channel the Aganan and Tigum River waters from the Jaro River and empty it directly to the sea through an 80-meter-wide canal.

He said that this system would have cost P800,000 in 2004.

"Sometimes, we neglect some important things. Now, we have seen the need for putting up an early warning system," Gervasio said. *David Isaac Siongco, Inquirer Visayas*

NEWSBRIEFS

ILAGAN, ISABELA

Atienza brings back sacked DENR execs

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Lito Atienza has ordered the reinstatement of ten of three executives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Cagayan, two weeks after they were relieved following the loss of ten trucks loaded with assorted wood products under their custody.

Ordered reinstated to their posts on July 14 were provincial environment and natural resources officer (Penro) Armando Sunad of Cagayan and command environment and natural resources officer (Cenro) Moises Ancajas of Tuguegarao City according to Clarence Baguilat, Cagayan Valley director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Baguilat said Dumoran Mabbayad, Cenro-Tuguegarao forestry specialist, is kept in a floating status because he was not included in Atienza's order.

Elmer Rago Jr. Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAVAO CITY

Duterte appeals to NPA: Spare Davao

MAYOR Rodrigo Duterte, who says he has friends in the New People's Army (NPA), has appealed to the rebels to spare the city from attacks.

The NPA has stepped up its attacks in the past weeks, adding targets in Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur and Compostela Valley and in Surigao del Norte.

Dennis Jay C. Santos Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO DEL SUR

Mayor offers jobs to communist rebels

THE MAYOR of Hagonoy town, which is one of the areas of Southern Mindanao identified as influenced by communist rebels, offered to provide jobs and livelihood programs to New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas who will surrender.

Mayor Edwin Hoyos also appealed in a statement to the NPA to respect civilians more.

"Our municipality vouches to employ all of them but we can recommend them for work in some businesses," he said.

Dennis Jay Santos Inquirer Mindanao

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE SLEX Building
897 Gregorio M. Araneta, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEPVS)

Notice is hereby given that the following nationals/alien employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
MAAC CHINESE LANGUAGE ACADEMY INC. 107 Scout 3rd Emerald Ave. Diliman, Pasig City	Yoo, Ki Sik Korean	Head Teacher, Korean Program
LOGICELL, INCORPORATION 1122 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Metropolitan Ave., Makati City	Arai, Eiichi Japanese	Treasurer
WORLD WIDE KOREX CORPORATION 2004 Prestige Tower Condo. F. Ortigas Ave. Pasig City	Lee, Kee Lee Korean	Marketing Officer
WORLD WIDE KOREX CORPORATION 2007 Prestige Tower Condo. F. Ortigas Ave. Pasig City	Sangkyun Kim Korean	General Assistant
EP PROJECT SOLUTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT INC. 7/F Pacific III Transcorp Ortigas, Mandaluyong City	Kim, Jae Gyeom American	Vice President
AL ARRAB ALUMINUM PHILIPPINES, INC. 1/F Work 2000 Bldg. San Francisco Ortigas Jr. Rd. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Lutfi Mustafa Ibrahim Abdul Jabbar	Technical Supervisor
POWERTECH ASIA PACIFIC, INC. 9/F Lily & Land Mega Plaza ADB Ave. cor. Garnet St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	David, Jean Paul Mercado French	General Manager
LARGILL PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/F Atlanta Tower 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Cho, Hoon Korean	Managing Director
MIS INSTRUMENT SALES + SERVICE, INC. 118 La Fresca Place 1 2/F San Juan Metro Manila	Kwang Hyeon Whelan Cho Korean	President
EF MEDIA ASIA PACIFIC LIMITED CORPORATION Unit 2-PSE Bldg., Exchange Rd. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Myoung Duk Korean	Marketing Manager
EF MEDIA ASIA PACIFIC LIMITED CORPORATION Unit 2-PSE Bldg., Exchange Rd. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Sagar, Kim Korean	Managing Director
JAHPI INCORPORATED Unit 1901 cor. Unit 1701 Apple Ave. cor. 7th Makati, Makati City	Myung Korean	Accounts Officer
PHAM NATIONAL PAPER CORPORATION 4/F Bldg. 901-902 Address Condo Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City	Chunkyung Lee Chinese	Assistant Purchasing Manager
NORDEEN TRAVEL & TOURS SERVICES, INC. Unit 1106 Marbella Bldg., 2322 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Suk Lee Korean	Operations Manager
NORDEEN TRAVEL & TOURS SERVICES, INC. Unit 1106 Marbella Bldg., 2322 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Su Hyo Jung Korean	Consultant
TECH MAHINDRA LIMITED 47 New Durant Bldg., 13 Limasawa St., Bangkal, Makati City	Venkata Satyanarayana Chalasani Indian	Software Consultant
TECH MAHINDRA LIMITED 47 New Durant Bldg., 13 Limasawa St., Bangkal, Makati City	Manoj Singh Indian	Assistant Business Analyst-Software Consultant
TECH MAHINDRA LIMITED 47 New Durant Bldg., 13 Limasawa St., Bangkal, Makati City	Gautam Biswas Indian	Technical Associate-Software Consultant
TECH MAHINDRA LIMITED 47 New Durant Bldg., 13 Limasawa St., Bangkal, Makati City	Sarah Sathianat Indian	Technical Associate-Software Consultant
IN MANSION INC. Unit 18 Cultural Town Condo. Malo St. cor. 5th Ave. Makati, Manila	Kim, Jin Lee Korean	General Manager
ROSA MANSION LA HOTEL & RESORT, INC. 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City	Bae, Chee Sik Malaysian	Executive Assistant Manager - Finance
DELL INTERNATIONAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES INC. 2/F Cyberzone, Mall Hotel Bldg. 30 Rd of Ortigas, Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City	Ajay Kakkad Indian	Program Manager III
LOVE HARD FOOT SPA INC. 2/F 8001 Bldg., 7450 J. Rizzolo St., Makati, Manila	Pradeep Dixit Chinese	Massage Therapy Instructor
LAREEN G TOLARO IMPOSTER LIMITED Unit 22, 23/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Dinesh Sudhir Shah Indian	Systems Analyst
PEOPLESUPPORT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Suite no. 10 Floor Unit, Makati City	Rinaldo Joseph Rodrigues Jr. Indian	Director for Operations
MEI FUNSION TRAVEL & TOUR CORP. Unit 4 1/F Mezzanine Flr. Lobo Lobina Bldg., 105 Salcedo St., Makati, Manila	Jorgenes Jose Arnaiz Spanish	Korean Coordinator
C & C BOOKS & LAMINATES GENERAL MERCHANDISE 1 - 10 Bonny Serrano Ave., Q.C. Tel. No.	Jeffrey Ang Chinese	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ROMEO G. BONGANTE
Regional Director

Late SPORTS

Kings advance; Tigers tie series

GINEBRA'S Paul Arizabal tries to steal the ball from Sta. Lucia's Paolo Hernandez during their semifinal night at the Araneta Coliseum

By Mycmyl R. Castillo

BARANGAY GINEBRA SET a bevy of three-pointers in gaining control in the first half before running an import-less Sta. Lucia side to the ground, 113-95, to make the semifinals of the Smart Piatra Cup at the Araneta Coliseum last...

Clarkin drained 3's of Georgia alternate to the first two periods—two each by Jaijui Helterbrand and Justin Salamanca—to post a 13-point halftime lead, increasing it to league as big as 33, 130-95, and sweep the Steelers out of their best-of-three series.

The Game 2 victory, which came under after Sta. Lucia management sent home ex-coach Lee Benson late Tuesday night, put the Kings opposite semifinalists awaiting Red Bull in an expectedly high-profile series that starts tomorrow.

The management of Philippine Cup champion Sta. Lucia decided to sack its import after Benson reportedly made unnecessary demands and threatened to not play his all against Ginebra.

In the second game, Coca-Cola enjoyed silver and forged a sudden-death playoff against Magnolia for the last semifinal berth with a fight 93-90 victory.

The scores:

GINEBRA 113—Helterbrand 22, Mamaril 16, Caguioa 15, Castelo 14, Ilisan 13, Jiménez 8, Salvador 8, Menard 6, Reavis 4, Devon 2, Mark 2, Villena 0, Ybañez 0

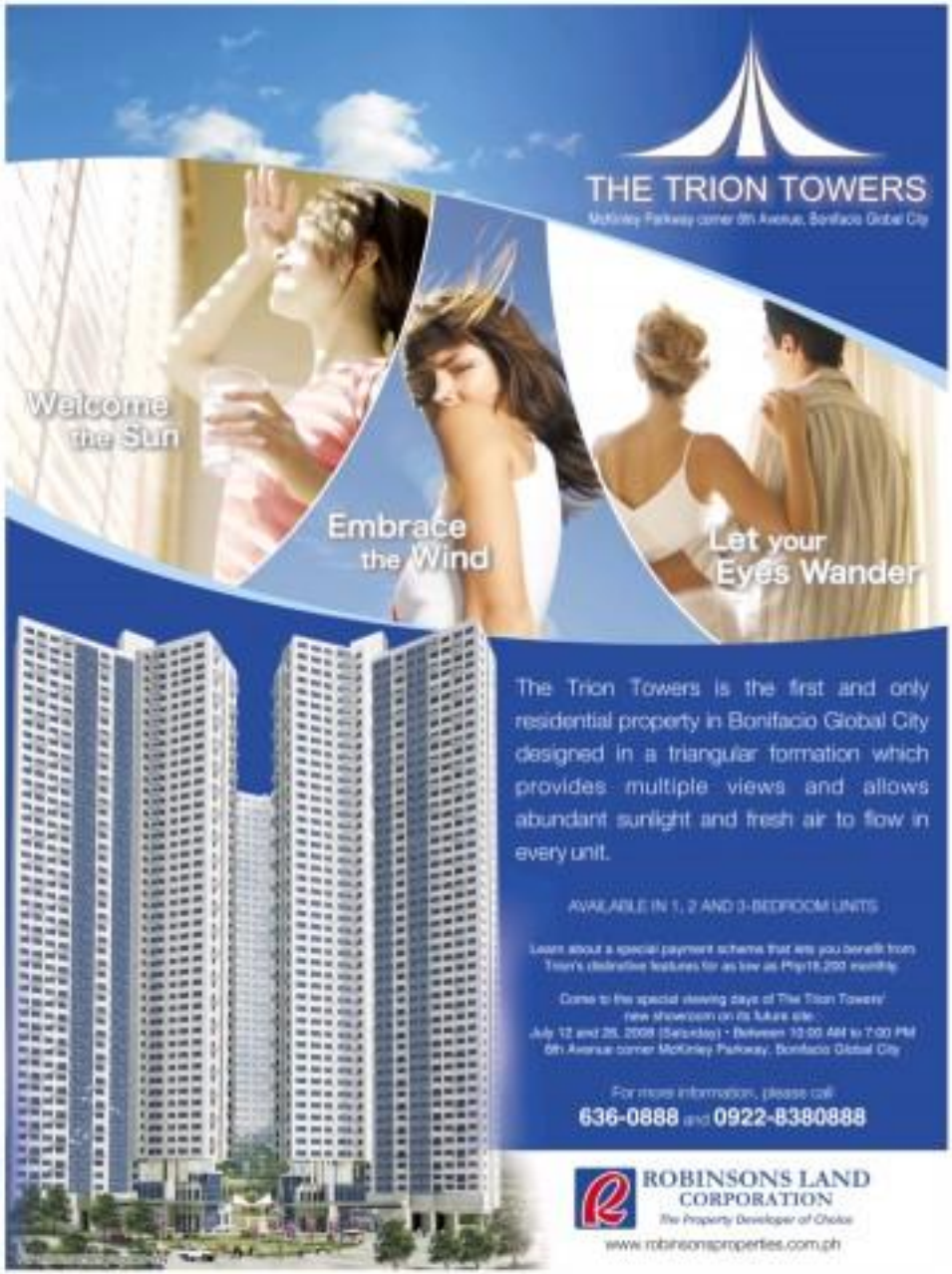
STA. LUCIA 95—Flores 32, Ocampo 12, Ayaay 9, Yeo 9, Asoque 8, Mayo 7, Ibañez 6, Ramos 5, Ong 3, Ramirez 2, Mendoza 2

Quarter Scores: 33-22, 61-48, 91-72, 113-95

Coca-Cola 91—Calaguio 31, Dario 18, Tenkiu 12, Ritualo 11, Buenafe 6, Mangahas 6, Dionisio 5, Dowell Tolan 3, Cabili 0

Magnolia 89—Alfaro 22, Pinto 20, Bonifacio 10, Zabarte 10, Tagulo 10, Cortez 6, Gonzalez 6, Rosario 3, Perez 0, Villanueva 0, Pingris 0

Quarter Scores: 22-22, 46-41, 71-68, 91-89



Aplus METRO

Embassy gets okay to reopen, only if …

Taguig gov't sets five conditions

By DJ Yap

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE exclusive Embassy Super Club in Bonifacio Global City has been allowed to reopen starting last night, but only under certain conditions, Taguig City officials said.

The Taguig City government yesterday granted the request of the club to reopen after it was closed here two days ago, provided it complies with five requirements laid down by its officials.

"If Embassy violates any of these terms and conditions, the city government will outrightly revoke their business permit and close down their establishment for good," Vice Mayor George Elias said in a statement.

The club, often frequented by the elite and trendy set, was ordered shut by the city's Business Permits and Licenses Office last month after a customer was allegedly murdered by a disc jockey working there.

The conditions set by the city government were: First, the club should adhere to the provisions of Ordinance 36 limiting the sale and serving of liquor and alcoholic beverages in the city's night spots up to 2 a.m. only. It is 2:30 a.m., the club should close and stand remains closed until 6 a.m.

Second, the club shall give access to a third party security team from the city government equipped with metal detectors to be stationed inside and at entry and exit points. Third, security cameras must be installed to monitor customers; and fourth, a drug-sniffing dog posted at the entrance.

Lastly, the establishment should limit the number of its customers, customers within the maximum number of people allowed inside the club as mandated by the Bureau of Fire Protection.

The city government also "advised Embassy to ban known customers who are known to be drug dealers and users from their establishment."

The move came after fear had been the owner of a hotel catering high profile customers, and the killing of a police. Rumors persist that drug pushers and drug users frequented the premises, but these have yet to be proven.

Bad weather leads to cancellation of classes in Metro

By Beverly T. Mamaclay and Jerry E. Esplanada

FLOODS AND HEAVY RAINS CAUSED BY Tropical Storm "Helen" yesterday led to the suspension of all-session classes in all public and private elementary and secondary schools in the cities of Manila, Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas, according to Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

Davao Occidental, Mabuwad Capital Region, Bureau of the Department of Education, also ordered the suspension of classes in Mauro, Balingasa, Mandaluyong and Dasmariñas Municipal Elementary Schools in Quezon City due to bad weather.

In Manila, Mayor Alfredo Lim told classes in the collegiate level were cancelled as many streets in the city like Rizal Avenue, R. Papa, Dapitan, Recto and parts of Espeleta were flooded and impassable to light vehicles.

Those were also Recolletanos in the areas of Tayuman, Pureza, A. H. Lacson, Delpan, Quezon, Pedro Gil, Recto, Oroquieta, San Marcelino and Taft Boulevard.

Malabon City Mayor Canuto Oreta, meanwhile, criticized the Department of Public Works and Highways for the delay in the completion of the flood control project in the southern part of the metropolis.

"Flooding in the city worsened despite the construction of the mega dike due to supposed to address the problem," Oreta said.

With Dino G. Santos and Nancy C. Carvajal

In Malabon, a Manila suburb, especially in the City of Manila where some enterprising people turn benches into "bridges" and allow pedestrians who want to cross their feet dry to use them for a few cents. [illegible]

DID YOU KNOW

T.E.B.B.S. in Tondo, Manila, was named as such because it used to be a cemetery under the "Tulay" law (tombs made into bridges) to cross to other side.

Chi Escalante, Inquirer Research

Briton claims ex-Marikina solon threatened to kill him

By Marlon Ramos

A BRITISH CITIZEN YESTERDAY sought the help of police after a former congressman allegedly threatened to kill him two months ago.

In his complaint, Gerard Christopher Chamberlain, 56, said he met former Marikina Rep. Romeo Candazo in a restaurant on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City on June 30.

The complainant, who said he owns a entertainment agency, said he discussed a business proposal to display sculpture in London with Candazo, who operates a sculpture school in Marikina City.

Chamberlain said he was surprised when Candazo took out a gun, emptied its magazine of bullets in front of him and then threatened to kill him.

Candazo also showed him an his laptop computer pictures of people he supposedly had ordered killed, the Briton added.

Chamberlain, however, refused to say what had prompted Candazo to threaten his life.

SPO2 Jun Montiel, case investigator, said Chamberlain now told them he decided not to go to the police after he talked to a lawyer who advised him to file a case against the former lawmaker.

Reached for comment, Candazo strongly denied the Briton's allegations, saying the police should have arrested Chamberlain who, he claimed, was a known illegal recruiter in London.

"That man is facing several cases in London. He came here to continue his illicit activity, so he must be arrested," he said in a phone interview.

Candazo claimed the British embassy is preparing charges against Chamberlain, whom he said is a con artist who had been recently representing a London-based investment firm.

Prosecution presents last witness, rests case in Leviste murder trial

By DJ Yap

SAYING IT WAS CONFIDENT of a conviction, the prosecution has rested its case in the trial of former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste, who stands accused of murdering his aide, Rafael de las Alas, last year.

Senior State Prosecutor Rustom Manuel Abance yesterday presented his last witness, an official of the Commission on Human Rights, Medical Capital Region, before Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150.

"I'm very confident we can secure a conviction. All our witnesses are credible and impartial, and I believe the judge will see that," Abance said.

Leviste, who attended the hearing, said the prosecution had proved nothing and presented nothing new, so the demurrer of his should be allowed to pose bail.

He added that even though the testimonies of prosecution witnesses were inconsistent and irrelevant, they were still "hyping," and he would present his own "incontrovertible" evidence to counter irrelevant witnesses.

The last prosecution witness, CHR-MCR forensic manager Carmelita Gutierrez, testified about the authenticity of documents on a complaint against Leviste were alleged human rights violations he committed while overseeing illegal settlers from his Hacienda in Calatagan, Batangas.

Gutierrez's testimony was intended to corroborate statements of two alleged settlers, including Fabiola Lotuelo, who told the court earlier about two instances in 2003 in which Leviste allegedly shot and killed them.

She said Leviste called them to a meet and ordered Special Weapons and Tactics unit members to tear down gas on three houses their shooting were demolished, as a result one Leviste strongly denied.

Witness later formally made its offer of evidences and dismissed gave the defense 10 days to file their comments.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR)
CORPORATE OFFICE

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for Consulting Services of the Bulacan Treated Bulk Water Supply Project

To All Prospective Bidders:

You are hereby warned on the following changes on this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Consulting Services of the Bulacan Treated Bulk Water Supply Project (Contract No. CS-BLTBWSP), as published in the media newspaper on June 22 and 23, 2008, to wit:

1. Submission of Eligibility Documents and Bid Proposals shall no longer be on the same date as indicated in the previously published Invitation.
2. Prospective bidders shall be required to submit first the Letter of Intent (LOI) and eligibility requirements for shortlisting. Only the top five (5) pre-qualified bidders will be invited to submit their bid proposals. The other three (3) bidders shall be invited to submit the financial proposals on a new and date to be announced later.
3. The eligibility of each prospective bidder shall be determined by examining each bidder's submitted documents in accordance with the criteria and rating system specified in the Bidding Documents, using non-discretionary "Pass/Fail" criteria. Only the bidders that passed the eligibility check shall be considered for shortlisting.
4. The General Criteria for shortlisting shall be:

A	Applicable Experience	30%
B	Qualification of Principal and Key Staff	50%
C	Current Workload Relative to Capacity	20%

5. The Terms of Reference (TOR) and the Eligibility Documents shall be issued to the prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 starting July 16, 2008 and July 14, 2008 only.
6. Bid Documents shall be issued only to the shortlisted bidders upon presentation of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. Shortlisted bidders who purchased the bid documents shall then be invited to attend the Pre-bid Conference where shall be submitted later.
7. The deadline for submission of LOI and eligibility requirements shall not be later than 12:00 noon of July 25, 2008. Late submission shall not be accepted. Opening and evaluation of the eligibility documents, as a shortlisting basis, shall be in camera and not open to the public.
8. The weights to be used in the evaluation of bid proposals, under a Quality-Cost Based Selection, shall be 80% for the technical proposal and 20% for the financial proposal.
9. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) was revised from Php 20 million to Php 25 million.

Except as above mentioned, other provisions in the original Invitation to Apply for Eligibility are to remain valid.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO JOSE M. ALLARDO
Administrator

(PA – July 8 & 11, 2008)

City Government of Dumaguete
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF DUMAGUETE is the PROPONENT engaged in construction projects under Republic Act...

Name of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bid Security Declaration (Bid Bond)	Time Frame (Completion / Delivery of Project)	Price of Bid Documents (Non-refundable)
Construction of Phase 2 Flood Mitigation Project Consisting of Construction of Concrete Lining of Candau-a River	P14,400,000.00	Not Required	Not Required	P1,000.00
		Not Required	Not Required	P1,000.00

Interested Bidders must submit their LOI and accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at Procurement Supplies and Services Office, City Hall, Dumaguete City not later than 12 noon of July 25, 2008.

The Bidder shall have and maintain the capacity of the Technical Personnel to be stated on request.

The City Government of Dumaguete reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, declare failure of bidding, or not award the contract without any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Supplies and Services Division of Dumaguete City at (035) 421-1710.

(Sgd.) ATTY. GUILLERMO B. TORRES
Chairman, BAC

(PA – July 17, 2008)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Nakpil-Bel Bldg., V. Luna Road, Quezon City
Telefax No. (632) 921-0282

July 17, 2008

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following concerned employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Employer/Petitioner/Requesting	Name of Foreign National/Employee	Position
1. KODAK PHILIPPINES CORPORATION FPIP, Sta. Rosa/Binan Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road	Mr. Masatoshi Hanakawa Japanese	Technical Expert
2. PANASONIC COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION LIP II, Tabangao, Batangas	Mr. Hirohiro Nakao Japanese	Manager for Process Engineering Department
3. AMPLEX CHEMICALS, INC. FPIP, Brgy. Balibago Calamba City	Mr. Kyungsun Min Korean	President & Chairman of the Board
4. PAG-IBIGFUND HOME FOR PLATE MAKERS CORPORATION FPIP Phase 4 Area Calamba, Laguna	Mr. Teo Ji Cheong Singaporean	Computer Graphics Designer
5. SODO MARKET INDUSTRY, INC. 7132, Brgy. Langkiwa Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Yasuhito Sudo Japanese	Vice President
6. AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Ligaya Technopark Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Kwan Mo Chung Korean	Sr. Vice President FPI OLFSP
7. AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Ligaya Technopark Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Ki Sun Seo Korean	Senior Manager TOSACOFT-T
8. AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Ligaya Technopark Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Chongsoo Na Korean	Senior Manager TEST - Test 4
9. SVP COMPANY, INC. 122, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Takashi Sakaba Japanese	President
10. SHINSHU ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING CORPORATION LPIP, Brgy. Biñan Laguna	Mr. Yi Cheng Chiu Chinese	EXT. Engineer
11. SEIKO HOLDER (PHILS.), INC. 122, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Yosuke Shikano Japanese	Sales Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. SANTIAGO JR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PA – July 17, 2008)

PSALM
POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (the "Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Generation Package of 140.3 MW Pasay Diesel Power Plant and the 22 MW Bohol Diesel Power Plant

(the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI") to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and appointing an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor Bangkal Building, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on 04 July 2008 (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

To be considered for the next step of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 10 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, comply with non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand U.S. Dollars (US$2,000.00) or its equivalent in Philippine Peso ("Peso") at the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp.'s (PDEx) exchange rate of the day, available for this account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before 5:00 p.m. on 1 August 2008, to entitle an interested party to further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the Bidding Procedures, shall be issued starting office hours on 01 July to 04 July 2008 (the "Bidding Package Issuance Period"). Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Committee or as specified in the Bidding Procedures will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a letter under oath to the participant agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party shall be deemed a Registered Participant (as defined in the Bidding Procedures), and shall be bound to comply with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) each interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such corporation; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through a consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The key features of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Site Inspection	07 July 2008 to 27 October 2008
Pre-Bid Conference	8 August 2008, 9:00 a.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline	10:00 noon on 29 October 2008 at the PSALM Office

References as to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Manila City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to submit a bid security in the form of Pay Order/Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee issued by a Philippine Commercial Bank in favor of PSALM Corporation, or Bid Bond issued by a Philippine Surety and Insurance Company, in the form of an irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit which must be available to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guaranty proper fulfillment of the obligations under the Bidding Package.

The Committee reserves the right to determine from Asset subject of the Bid which will consist of either (i) both the Pasay Plant and Bohol Plant as a package; (ii) the Pasay Plant and Bohol Plant individually under this Bidding Process (i.e. both the Pasay Plant and Bohol Plant will be subject to this Bidding Process on an individual basis); (iii) the Bohol Plant alone (i.e. only the Bohol Plant will be bid out in the Pasay Plant will not be bid out in this Bidding Process); or (iv) the Pasay Plant alone (i.e. only the Pasay Plant will be bid out in this Bidding Process).

Letters of interest, Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking shall be addressed and submitted to The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor Bangkal Building, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Atty. Franco A. Tampoco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 890-8509 or e-mail address fatampoco@psalm-gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proceeds in this Transaction, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government without affording any interested party or bidder any reasons any obligation to communicate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process. Nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and/or any matter in the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the manner provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without prior notice. Interested parties shall be bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

PSALM Privatization
Bids and Awards Committee

(PA – July 15, 17 & 18, 2008)

MetroBriefs

2 cases vs Bunevacz up for resolution next week

TWO OF THE FIVE estafa cases filed against former dentist Ma. David Bunevacz by officials of Beverly Hills Cosmetic Surgery and Skin Clinic Inc. are up for resolution anytime next week, Dr. Eduardo Santos, the firm's managing director, said this in a press conference yesterday. He added that another case against Bunevacz, which was filed in Manila, may also be resolved in the next month or two. Bunevacz, 71, will be recalled, resigned as president of the company in November 2007 after he was accused of misusing nearly P20 million of the firm's funds. He and his wife Jessica Rodriguez, who handled the company's publicity and promotions, went on vacation last year in the United States after denying the allegations against them. They have yet to return to the country.

Beverly L. Kalalo/ef

Ex-Petron employee charged with qualified theft

A FORMER employee of Petron Corp. was charged in the Manila Regional Trial Court yesterday with 36 counts of qualified theft for allegedly and swindling nearly P12 million worth of equipment made by Philippines Fishing Gear Industries to the oil firm from 2004 to 2005. Michael was recommended for Joan Francisco Temporal, Petron's former marine industrial account sales executive. The charges were filed after Temporal admitted taking the money when he ran into repay in June 2007. He failed, however, to make good on his promise.

Alison M. Lopez

Public opinion disregarded

THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER DAM panagan Rep. Zenaida Ducos in the top post of the Energy Regulatory Commission (Inclines the stranglehold of the Arroyo clan on the energy sector.

Ducos, who hails from Pembroke Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's hometown, Lubao, is very close to the Chief Executive's son Mikey.

Mikey is chair of the House of committee on energy. The other members of the committee are Ducos, the President's other son, and her brother-in-law Iggy Arroyo.

The Arroyos no longer care about public opinion.

* * *

Ducos's appointment came on the heels of allegations that her relatives bagged a P1-billion contract to provide wind in the National Power Corp.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, chair of Pampanga won the allegedly much favored company Transpacific Consolidated Resources Inc., that had a paid up capital of only P62,500.

Imagine, a P62,500-capitalized firm bagging a P1-billion contract from the Napocor!

The contract could have been awarded to a bigger and more reputable company.

* * *

There's talk in Pampanga that Mikey recommended Ducos for the ERC.

The President's son became congressman after Ducos gave way to him.

Naturally, Mikey was expected to defend Ducos's appointment from critics, and he did.

"I believe in her genuine concern for the people in the energy industry. I'm sure she would prioritize end users over and above consumptive abuses by distribution utilities," Mikey said.

Some other time, Mikey may be seen on opposite of making the statement quoted above. He is probably put much on his mouth.

Mikey cannot even tell energy from electricity. Just listen to him when he talks to officials functions and in private. Man," said a fellow Congressman. Liland Icagaran.

Gloal conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is donating $500,000 (P22.5 million) worth of food to victims of Typhoon "Frank."

The donation is expected to benefit 30,000 families in Aklan, Capiz, Antique and Northern provinces identified by the National Disaster Coordinating Center as to the worst of Frank.

The donation will consist of canned goods, instant noodles, coffee and bottled water.

"We hope our donation will make some difference not only in their day-to-day survival, but also in their struggle to rebuild their lives," said Ramon S. Ang, SMC president and chief operating officer.

The food donations will coordinately go a long way.

Donations to Typhoon Frank's victims, no matter how small, will alleviate their suffering. Have you donated to the victims?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NEW WORLD RECORD
French sailor Thomas Coville rounds on his outdated rowing as he arrives at Brest harbour, western France, after becoming the fastest man to sail the Atlantic. Coville single-handed in the ship 19 hours 29 minutes and 20 seconds. AP

Obama to focus on al-Qaida in Pakistan

WASHINGTON—SENATE HOUSE hopeful Barack Obama on Tuesday promised to switch the "single-minded" US focus on Iraq to al-Qaida havens to rebut Defense, as he laid out a sweeping new blueprint for US foreign policy.

But his Republican rival John McCain stopped both. "I know how to win wars," in the debate his new level of national ahead of Obama's current audition for the job of US commander-in-chief in the Middle East and Europe next week.

Obama wanted his rise to get more US combat troops out of Iraq within 16 months of taking office, promised to strike at al-Qaida in Pakistan if Islamabad would not, to secure more nuclear weapons and battle climate change.

"Iraq is not going to be a perfect place, and we don't have unlimited resources to try to make it one," Obama said in the speech in Washington.

"I will give our military a new mission on my first day in office: ending this war," Obama said.

After more than five years at war in Iraq, more than 4,000 US troop deaths, and with tens of thousands of Iraqis killed, Obama said it was time to refocus US policy on the region which spawned the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001.

He should have been opposite to President George W.I. Bush and Senator McCain—the second front in the war on terror is not Iraq, and it never was," Obama said in his speech.

Al-Qaida has an expanding base in Pakistan that is probably no farther from their old Afghan one but it does a safe date from Washington to Philadelphia," Obama said to excerpts released by his campaign.

"We cannot tolerate a terrorist sanctuary, and as president I won't," he said.

"We must make it clear that if Pakistan cannot or will not act, we will take out high-level terrorist targets like Osama bin Laden if we have them in our sights," McCain retorted Obama's opponent, saying he had been "wrong" to originally oppose the US "surge" escalation strategy), would squander its gains with a troop withdrawal and was guilty of "blame" over Pakistan.

"Today we know Senator Obama was wrong. The surge has succeeded and because of its success, the next president will inherit a situation in Iraq in which America's enemies are on the run," McCain said in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"Senator Obama will tell you we must win in Afghanistan without losing in Iraq," McCain said, though he added that the "worst-case" in Afghanistan was not acceptable.

McCain said three more combat brigades were needed in Afghanistan, prompting claims by Obama's campaign that he had "flip-flopped" and copied Obama's positions, after saying earlier he opposed sending more troops to the war.

Obama said the week that he would divert two combat brigades from Iraq to Afghanistan.

McCain mocked Obama's looming visits to Afghanistan and Iraq, details of which have not been released for security reasons.

"I note that he is speaking today about his plans for Iraq and Afghanistan before he has even left, before he has talked to General Petraeus, before he has seen the progress in Iraq and before he has set foot in Afghanistan for the first time," McCain said, referring to the commander of US troops in Iraq.

"In my experience, just finding out those actually work best the other way around: first you assess the facts on the ground, then you present a new strategy." AFP

Algae unlikely hero in fight vs climate change

OSLO—AS THE WORLD MULLS THE question of how to satisfy a seemingly endless appetite for energy and still slash greenhouse gas emissions, researchers have stumbled upon an unexpected hero: algae.

So-called microalgae hold enormous potential when it comes to waging to both climate change, since they naturally absorb huge amounts of carbon dioxide, as well as energy production, since they can easily be converted to a range of different fuel types.

"This is certainly one of the most promising and relevant new leads in the fight against climate change and the quest to satisfy energy needs," said Frederic Hauge, who heads up the Norwegian environmental group Bellona.

The idea is to divert exhaust spewed from carbon burning plants and other factories into so-called "photobioreactors," or large transparent tubes filled with algae.

When the gas is mixed with water and injected into the tubes, the algae soak up much of the carbon dioxide, or CO_2 , in accordance with the principle of photosynthesis.

The pioneering technology, called solar biofuels, is one of a panoply of novel methods aiming to evade the problem of providing energy but without the carbon pollution of costly fossil fuels—with oil at record high prices—or the waste and danger of nuclear power.

Studies are underway around the globe, from seaboards in Australia, Germany and the US, to the US Department of Energy, oil giant Royal Dutch Shell and US aircraft maker Boeing. This week alone, Japanese auto parts maker Denso Corp., a key supplier to the Toyota group, said it too would start investigating, to see if algae could absorb CO2 from its factories.

The prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), for one, has successfully tested the system, feeding clear tubes filtered through the algae broth. Inside from a coppery colour, plant cells, out 50-65 percent lighter on CO2 and contained 40 percent less of another potent greenhouse gas, nitrogen oxide.

Once the algae-soup has been extracted from the tubes they can easily be heated or squeezed in the sunlight, and then hold capture the climate changing gases they ingest indefinitely.

And when algae grows out in the open ocean in biomass plants, the method can actually produce "carbon negative" energy, meaning the energy production actually drains CO2 from the atmosphere. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Mugabe victory mixed

HARARE—Zimbabwe's Christian community on Tuesday rejected President Robert Mugabe's re-election last month as marred by violence and intimidation and said it would support a government of national unity, but statement, the Catholic child the churches in the predominantly Christian country said the united between Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai was started by the worst violence since independence in 1980. Reuters

Another Indonesia MP arrested

JAKARTA—Indonesian authorities arrested a lawmaker on Wednesday for allegedly taking bribes from developers, the sixth MP to be detained so far this year in a major corruption crackdown, an official said. Yusuf Erwin Faishal of the president Muhammadiyah Prawiranegara Awakening Party was arrested by the country's Corruption Eradication Commission on the early hours of the morning, commission spokesperson Johan Budi said. The MP was suspected of taking bribes in exchange for the approval of the rezoning of forest land for commercial development. AFP

2 US soldiers killed

BAGHDAD—The US military announced on Wednesday the deaths of two more troops killed by insurgents in Iraq. One soldier was killed on Tuesday when a bomb detonated as he was explosive ordnance disposal operation in province of Diyala, a region known to be a stronghold of al-Qaida. A second died of wounds received during firefight with insurgents in western province of Anbar on Monday, the military added. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

Parents of priest's sex victims to confront Pope

SYDNEY—A SCANDAL over sex abuse by priests which has partly overshadowed Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Australia intensified on Wednesday after the parents of two victims said they planned to confront him.

The Pope has said he will apologize in Rome abused by predatory priests during his visit to Australia for World Youth Day this week, which has attracted an estimated 215,000 pilgrims from around the world.

But the father of two girls abused by a Melbourne priest, one of whom committed suicide, said he and his wife would travel back to Australia from Europe for a confrontation.

"I'll accept an apology if the Pope will wholeheartedly embrace the notion of hugging forgiveness from victims and supporting them in every way possible," Anthony Foster told the Australian Broadcasting Corp., adding on the Nine network he was "leaving a reasonable life."

Foster said he planned to make a public statement when he arrived and would demand a response from the Pope and the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Australia, Cardinal George Pell.

He said he hoped the Pope would move beyond his brief remarks for the church to adopt a new approach to the victims of abuse.

"I should not have to try to see them. They should be coming to us to beg our forgiveness," he said.

Foster's daughter Emma committed suicide this year aged 26, after struggling to cope with the abuse by a priest while she was in primary school.

Her sister Portia was also abused and turned to alcohol in her teens before being left brain-damaged after being hit by a car while drunk, ABC said.

The priest involved, Father Kevin O'Donnell, died in 1997 after serving time in jail for multiple sex offences but the Fosters had to fight an eight-year legal battle for compensation from the church.

World Youth Day coordinator Bishop Anthony Fisher told reporters many people were focusing on the positive aspects of World Youth Day "rather than dwelling crassly on a few people are doing an old wrongdo." Bell later described the story of Emma Foster as "tragic," saying he apologized to her and her family in 1998.

"I sure wish her parents, Pat and Anne, does some financial help. We also offered them counselling," he told reporters.

Incidentally, bishops issued an apology for past abuses in 2002 and 2008 has said papal comments on the issue would be "a welcome contribution." The Pope made a historic apology for the actions of child-abusing clergy in April during a visit to the United States, where the church also faces a long-running sex scandal. AFP

POPE Benedict XVI (left), puts a hand on the forehead of Sister Connie, in Sydney, Australia, on Wednesday.

Israel, Hezbollah begin dramatic prisoner swap

ROSH HANIKRA, ISRAEL—Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas handed over the bodies of two Israeli soldiers and tracks carrying the remains of some 190 Lebanese and Palestinian fighters began crossing into Lebanon on Wednesday—setting in motion a dramatic prisoner swap between the bitter enemies.

Buoyed and friends outside the homes of the two captured Israeli soldiers burst into tears early Wednesday when TV images showed was black coffins believed to contain their remains. Though officials had suspected Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were dead, the sight of the coffins was the first concrete sign of the young men's fate.

The swap—mediated by a UN-appointed German official who shuttled between the sides for 10 months—is likely to be a significant boost for Hezbollah at a time when the guerrillas are regaining their footing following the blows they suffered in a 2006 war against Israel. It also closes a painful chapter for Israel, which launched the war in response to the soldiers' capture in a cross-border raid.

Israeli forensic experts worked to identify the Israelis' bodies, a process that could take several hours, said Israeli Army spokesperson Avital Leibovich. Once the Israelis' bodies are positively identified, Israel will release five Lebanese prisoners to Lebanese officials—the first group—including a militant convicted in an attack perceived here as particularly treacherous.

Lebanon's Al-Manar TV quoted senior Hezbollah official Wafik Safa at the border as saying the bodies of the two Israelis were in a "sanitized" shape from injuries they suffered during the 2006 cross-border raid.

The soldiers' Hezbollah captors had withheld any information about them since they were taken.

As news of Regev's ends to the ground where she saw the coffins appear on a small TV hooked up outside the soldier's father's house. AP

Iraq eyes security control by year-end

BAGHDAD—IRAQ HOPES TO have security control of all its provinces by the year-end, the national security adviser said on Wednesday, underscoring the government's growing confidence in its own forces.

Mowaffaq al-Rubaie was speaking at a ceremony where US-led troops transferred security responsibilities for southern Dhiqar Qadisiya province to Iraqi forces.

The handover puts Baghdad in control of security in 10 of the country's 18 provinces, all mainly Shiite or Kurdish areas.

"We aspire to conclude the 18th province before the end of this year, God willing all provinces will be under the control of the Iraqi security authorities before the end of this year," Rubaie said in a speech broadcast on state-controlled Iraqiya television from the Qadisiya capital of Diwaniya.

The growing confidence Iraqi leaders have in handling their own security affairs has been partly reflected in suggestions by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki that a timetable be set for the withdrawal of US soldiers in Iraq.

The level of US troops is a key issue in November's presidential election battle between Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama. McCain supports the Bush administration's current strategy, while Obama wants a timetable for withdrawal.

Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin, the No. 2 US military commander in Iraq, said the handover to Qadisiya was "yet another demonstration by the democratic government of Iraq that it is making progress by providing for all its people." Bad weather delayed a ceremony due late last month for Iraqi forces to take over security in Qadisiya.

The US military has said had another site delayed a security handover last month in Anbar province, a former Sunni Arab insurgent stronghold in the west. Anbar will be the first Sunni Arab province to come under Iraqi security control.

Diwaniya was one of several cities in Iraq's Shiite south that saw fierce fighting between anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi Army and government forces in late March. It has been largely calm since then. Reuters

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

RP Jungolfers off to solid start / A24

Knights turn back Stags; JRU scores

LETRAN'S Dino Dua (left) and Aloysius Calonzo (right) try to apply the squeeze on San Sebastian's Avelino Inapelo. The two rookies came up big for the Knights against the Stags.

By Cedelf P. Tayao

LETRAN CLOSED OUT ANOTHER game like its season depended on it. Sooner or later, San Sebastian would need to play that way, too, to salvage its season.

Dino Dua came up with an overpowering performance and Aloysius Calonzo routed Louie Alas' team with some clutch fourth-quarter baskets as the Knights repulsed the Stags, 71-67, yesterday to stay on top of the NCAA seven basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

Jess Royal Ordoyno, with Mark Cagurangan fighting 21 points built on five triples, rallied up to card in 2-2 by dumping Perpetual Help, 74-57, in the last game of the day.

The talent-3 seniors Dua count a personal season high by pumping in all points on top of 17 rebounds to power the Knights to a 4-3 record.

"We expected a close game and that was what San Sebastian gave us," coach Louie Alas said.

Dua scored on a jumper more to make it 66-59 with 1:33 left, before responding to free

SPORTS, A23

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TEEING OFF Miggy Rey Nuevo tees one proper

By Jong Reyes, Inquirer Golf

SAN DIEGO—HEAVY FAVORITE Bobbi Ardina's golfing woes in the back nine allowed three others to tie for the lead even as big boy Miggy Rey, Ali Pramod, Lou Brodelia Up and Jessabet Oliveros-Ilar also figured in an impressive Philippine start Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) in the Callaway Junior World golf championships here.

Priming up for next week's US Women's Amateur, the 14-year-old Ardina went through the first six holes of the Oak Glen course of Fortuna Resort at three-under par but could only score a run-under-70 and wound up in a tie with Jhalimpo of Thailand, Alina Ching of Hawaii and Aki Sugimoto of Japan at the top.

"Could have been better if not for some missed puts," said a very confident Ardina whose only bogey for the day came off a bunkered approach on the 11th.

The 5-foot-7, 120-pound Rio made good use of his brawn while the much-smaller Ramos applied his accurate hitting on the two-lined par-72 Lake Glen Masters course as the La Salle-Greenhills grade schooler carded a 73 and 71, respectively, to nail Indian Dominguez Hari Baldeba (69) in the boys 11-12 age group.

A new hope emerged for the 41-strong RP contingent in the meet this trip, who brazenly handed the soaring heat a 72 that was just four off Grace Mae of Hawaii and Californian Gerbie Go Thew.

Oliveros-Ilar, the daughter of former national tennis player Tess who played third in the inter-division last

ABIGAIL Arevalo, competing in Class B of the Junior World tournament, checks her putt line as Abel Tesoro, who is caddying for her, looks on.

years was in the hunt again. She shot a 68, four adults of Kendall, Gardner in the girls 16-under division.

Six-year-ion the round conditions after winning a long-driving contest. The guy could have been closer for two of not for a lost birdie opportunity on the par-5 18th when his second shot caught the lip of the bunker.

The Asian Golf Foundation of the Philippines here are backed by Philippine Airlines, Diamond Hotels, Samsung, ICTSI and Crestlink.

TEE-TO-PIN SCORES

Class B (Girls) 9 Hari Dodd par-73 Rio—74 Julie Ann Ramos, 75 Marie Pearl, 80 Jessica Lucas, 86 Sheila Mendiola, 86th Cynthia Dela Cruz—75 Gilbert Santos, 77 Regina de Guzman, 81 Sanchez Rosquel, 87 Louise Mendiola. Class B (Boys) 68 par-73 Ryan Ely Rio—Ely Rio, 74 Kevin Paul Ochoa, 80 Miguel Jalandoni, 80 Ugo Tanabalad, 86th Christian Pascual-Dal, Class—72 Emilio Arellano, 76 Jessica Jacson, 76 Aaron Hernandez, 80 Daniel Jose Abalos, 83 Angelo de Villa, 83 Nikko Alde Vivo. Class A (Lake Jan Masters par-73) Boys—73 Miggy Rey, 77, 85 Ramos, 86 Hanna Jose Lobo—78 Ali Ramos, 86, 85 Victoria Bolado, 86, 92 Lauren Yuan, 96 Julie Valentine Class B (Lawrence 66th par-72) Boys—82 Eugene Zaragoza II, 88 Nikko Bolado Antonio, 88 Justin Ely, Girls Lorena Garcia Reyes 60—82 Hanna Pagdanganan, 86 Mia Lagoza, 92 Abigail Arevalo, 88 Pauline del Rosario. Class C (Nyman Peter Clement 90 Boys—80 Ryan Hernandez, 88 Patrick Victorino, 98 Paolo Buenaventura. Girls—82 Cristine Fernandez, 98 Paola Buenaventura, Class C (Lawrence Canlas Park par-68) Girls—82 Bernice Dianne Ilar, Boys—91 Alex Bernard Yuson, 91, 98 Miguel Arevalo Ilar, 91 Arsenio Lorenzo Evasco.

PSC asks a P50-million favor

By Jane Nicanor

FOR THE MILLION, THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission hopes it has shelled out enough to make a simple request.

Bring home an Olympic medal.

"This is the most expensive training (of athletes) that we have," said PSC chair Wilfrido Ramirez, referring to the immersion foreign stints the 15 Beijing Olympians had separately gone through. "(Winning a medal) is possible because we have prepared well for the Olympics."

Sports well, too.

The PSC has roughed up P50 million for foreign exposure—midcourt Miguel Molina, flyers Akiko Thomas, Daniel Coakley, JE Pabilo and Cricket Bonus swallowed more than a third of that budget pie.

Another P30 million will be allocated by the PSC for the actual participation and contingency fund of the RP delegation to the Games, based on a document obtained by the Inquirer.

The expenses of qualifying tournaments for at least 11 disciplines were also culled from the said amount.

According to Ramirez, the PSC has been roughing up P3,000 each month for every swimmer training in the United States, quite from the P900 monthly stipend the Olympian have been receiving.

"We have to put premium on foreign training," said Ramirez. "It is the key strategy of other countries which excel in the Olympics."

RAMIREZ

Top medal prospects Viboonda Orr and Wesley Isnodorio Rimero of taekwondo have been training rigorously in Seoul, South Korea, while boxer Harry Tañamor sharpened his skills in amateur bouts versus Cuba and several boxers European countries.

Mark Javier of archery went to Egypt and France, shooter Rio Ang has had stints in Germany and Belgium while divers Sheila Mae Perez and Ryan Pearl Sibayan set in the finish of preparations in Beijing.

Weightlifter Nelsihda Dino, on the other hand, honed her craft in Guangzhou, China.

Wushu artists join Olympics

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AIMED FROM THE 15 ATHLETES competing in regular Olympic events, there will be four more Filipino bets in the Beijing Games next month.

Led by world and Asian champion Philip Ahong, four wushu artists will join the Philippine delegation to compete in the discipline included in this year's Olympiad as a special guest.

Ahong, Jenalyn Rivera, Mary Jane Lotiman and Marian Montano have been training in different parts of China since February, according to their coach, former world champion Lenard Pimentel.

The same players led Philippine champion teams in the Southeast Asian Games as well as outstanding teams in the Asian Games.

They are competing and training in China under Archimedes coach and will go straight to Beijing when the Olympics begin on August 8.

Wushu president Julian Camacho said wushu won't be a showcase exercise event, but just like it, the medals won in the sport won't separate us the official tally.

Pimentel, the 1995 world champion, said he is confident all of them will come home with medals.

Ahong is revered by newspapers overseas, where he snagged a gold in the World championships last November in Beijing. Rivera, Lotiman and Montano will fight in the sanshou or combat events.

The country won a gold (Arianne Cardenas) and two bronzes (Stephen Fernandez and Ben Lozares) when taekwondo and taekwondo were demonstration sports in Seoul in 1988 and Barcelona in 1992.

Taekwondo formally joined the regular sports roster during the Sydney Olympics in 2000, while karate-jing has yet to be part of the Games.

Wushu has been lobbying to make it to the 2008 Games after failing to get into the official roster for the London Games in 2012.

Great job, Ali Peek

IN HUDDLE

Keith Cobb

WE MAY NOT be here to attend the PBA rookie draft next month at the Mall of Asia, but Jason Castro's agent Danny Espiritu confirmed that he is not to file an application on behalf of the rugby flanker said, Jason left for Singapore a week ago to start training with the Magnos for the forthcoming NBL season which starts in September.

The Singapore Magnos finished as the bottom of the ladder in the last NBL conference.

"If he is drafted, the ballclub that picks him must be willing to wait until the NBL season is over," Danny said.

Jason was not at the airport by team-mates Bob Turner and drives to his quarters before they proceeded to a down-town restaurant for a send-Jason. Danny said Jason was very impressed with his quarters and might ask a cousin based in Singapore to stay with him in it flat.

Spectators in the last Purefoods Talk 'N Text game where the stakes clearly centered agree that Phone Pal 4G Duck deserves a part on the fund for being instrumental in stunning further season sentence.

When chaos erupted, everybody thought All was poised to score cup with Terrence in for scrutinizing the offender which was Jayson Yap.

Jason admitted he thought so too. But instead of going after Jason, 4G chased Lanther and quickly locked him in his arms so he could not move.

Lanther tried to break loss, but he couldn't. Obviously All was stronger than he is.

That gave Jason time to sprint away and avoid the wrath of the fleeing import. Duck only let go of Lanther when he was sure Jason was a safe distance away from the import.

Had 4G not acted swiftly, my colleagues said Lanther could have very likely caught up with Jason.

* * *

Speaking of Lanther, I understand that several gunners were eyeing Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado to appeal to the PBA Commissioner's Office to have the import suspended after the Purefoods-Talk 'N Text game.

The Realtors were scheduled to meet the Phone Pals the following game day in a knockout match for quarterfinal slot.

While a suspension would have definitely given the Realtors an advantage, Buddy opted not to make any such move.

"That would make the game lopsided and deprive the public of an interesting match," he said.

Buddy did not get the opportunity to regret this decision because they won against the Phone Pals.

After the game, Buddy was surprised to get a visit at the dugout from Talk 'N Text officials headed by Manny V Pangilinan and Ricky Vargas, who dropped by to congratulate him for making the gunners think.

* * *

Expect the NU Bulldogs to play with more vigor and vitality in their succeeding games.

In case you haven't heard, NU has been purchased by the Sy family of SM, just like fellow-League Leader Ateneo purchased by the University of the East.

According to SM exec Topher Bautista, Hans Sy, son of patriarch Henry, has promised to give NU a FAAP basketball title in four years.

Hans, he said, was a varsity cager at Xavier School.

Stockinger gets BMW 'education'

DURING SQUARTRIDE OF A TWO-MONTH break in the Formula BMW Pacific Series, Rookie Cup runner up Markus Stockinger visited the BMW Sauber F1 factory in Hinwil, Switzerland, for an education and coaching program for two chosen junior drivers from around the world.

Stockinger drew seven to finish to observe a testing session of the Sauber F1 team in Barcelona, where he also met with the F1 Team, were given pit lane and team radio access and met with BMW F1 driver Robert Kubica.

Stockinger then headed for the race track of Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium for a test session with Italian Team Euro International with whom he will compete as a guest driver in the Formula BMW Europe series.

Formula BMW Europe is considered to be the most competitive series between Asia Pacific, The Americas and Europe.

"Spa is one of the most exciting and famous tracks in the world," said Stockinger. "It's up and down with several hundred meters of altitude difference. When you go up the infamous 'Eau Rouge' curve, you shoot up into the sky and then drive down into an extremely fast left hander. You experience hardcore g-forces and several down forces all the time. It's the most exciting roller coaster I know!"

STOCKINGER

The races in Europe will support Formula One races in Hungary (Hungaro Ring), Valencia (Spain) and Belgium (Spa) during August and September.

This weekend, Stockinger will return to action at the Sentul race track in Indonesia to gain more on-track experience and prepare for his appearances in front of massive crowds in the coming months.

The two Formula BMW Pacific events following the races in Indonesia will be part of the support programs of Formula One races in Singapore's new street circuit and in Shanghai.

SPIKING DEMOTION Lois Kristine Salak, Philippine Air Force former varsity player for the UP Maroons, suits up for the Senado Project 2k4 squad in the 2006 Senate Olympics

SPORTSWATCH

GDAP launches 'Buy Here, Buy Real' campaign

THE GOLF DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (GDAP) has launched the "Buy Here, Buy Real" campaign aimed at maintaining the high quality of golf equipment sold and encouraging golfers to buy only from licensed distributors.

The move is seen as a solution to the proliferation of substandard golf equipment and the illegal practice of parallel importation—buying products abroad then selling them locally without the authorization of licensed distributors.

"No distributor, we find that under because we pay our taxes," said GDAP president Ricardo Reyes said.

The campaign hopes that buyers will get only high-quality golf equipment with accredited after-sales service.

A local association composed of golf equipment and turf businesses, GDAP has already done steps to spearhead the campaign through golf tournaments and information dissemination.

Rotary Cagayan de Oro golf tourney slated

THE RIGHT PATH OF HOLDING ITS 22ND Southern Leg Golf Tournament on August 14 to 17 at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club and the classic Del Monte Golf Club.

The tournament is hosted by Cagayan De Oro City Mayor Constantino "Tinex" Jaraula, a ranking Rotarian and past district governor (District 3870). The tournament coincides with the city's fiesta day.

There is also a social component to the event featuring a caddies competition, a jungolf event, and a festival and musical extravaganza. For more details, please contact Mel Ma. Paulino B. Reyes at (632) 8159000 or at 7248174 or e-mail rgfp1967@yahoo.com.

SITEL Call Center champs

SITEL PULLED OFF 8 STUNNING 80-79 win over defending champion GEO International (for lowly Jim Pitney) to nab the 2006 MVP Cup Center Championship held over the weekend at the Makro gym in Mandaluyong City.

Sitel sealed the win only after GEO team manager Scott Nagle was tapped a double technical with only 22 ticks. The event is managed by Metro Basketball Tournaments center Nino C. Fernandez and sponsored by Alpe Fibers, Team Sportsnet Lipovitan, Tropy Liquid and Mikasa.

Fernandez approved a resolution banning the GEO team in future Call Center leagues due to the unsportsmanlike conduct.

Cainta derby gets going

THE LUCKY WINNER FROM AMONG 176 participants will be known today when the championship round of "Bahlak Mo Pao! 38 5-mile derby" gets underway at Cainta Coliseum.

Promoter Fronie Lacsina raised a good-sized prize of no less than P1.2 million. Champ also Dax and Jerry Dong have the list of contenders.

Meanwhile, the "XL Bluetuft Cooks Sa Cainta 5-mile derby" opens tomorrow. For details call 8922000 or 09178 4888187.

MILE HIGH (From left) Carlos Sastre (CSC Dve), Cadel Evans (Predictor-Lotto), Christian Vandevelde (Garmin-Chipotle/USA), Riccardo Ricco (Saunier Duval-Scott) and crew mate Stephane Goubert (France) ride in the Pyrenees a day before Thursday's crucial stage, where rider fall into the lead may change. AFP

UAAP referee axed for rest of the season

Game-fixing the reason?

By Mycaryll R. Castillo and Jasmine W. Payo

UAAP COMMISSIONER CHITO NARVASA DROPPED THE AXE ON THE REFEREE WHO worked the match between La Salle and ITE, late Saturday, a reliable source told the Inquirer late last night.

The source identified the referee as Ryan Tolentino, who was suspended for the rest of the 71st UAAP basketball season by Narvasa for alleged game-fixing, this source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

The decision was arrived at last night by Narvasa, who cited two controversial calls and a non-call in favor of the Blue Eagles in the first two minutes of the Archers-Tamaraws game won by La Salle, 73-62.

The source said a memorandum was already circulated to the member schools regarding the suspension. This was confirmed by a high-ranking UAAP official who also refused to be named.

"Sir, the board members already signed the memo. It's (the referee) already suspended," said the official, who refused to discuss the contents of the memorandum.

Meanwhile, La Salle coach Franz Pumaren opted to provide no feature—rather than opt to make statements on his Archers' setback, disappointed. The team's Focus Grooming Tigers.

"They're going to be very tough," said Pumaren of the Tigers, who are mentored by Pido Jarencio, the former Santo Tomas guardianger who steered the school to one ruptive.

He said Saturday's 2006-08 tilt.

"ITE has very experienced players. If you look at my team right now, it's only JV (Casio) and Mike (Meinhardt) who played a lot of minutes last season."

The Archers and the Tigers—the two UAAP champions in the last two seasons—still fight for a share of second place in the men's basketball tournament at 4 p.m. today at the Philsports Arena, right after the Far Eastern Tamaraws and the University of the Philippines Maroons aim for the same goal at 2 p.m.

As gleaming as Pumaren's declaration of the Tigers is, Jarencio isn't easy to be flattered.

"We'll just see, really," said Jarencio. "We've not promising anything to any of our games. Just wait for our surprise in our next game."

Jarencio has pulled off surprises of his own by saying he is bidding a bum-up, injured UST squad only to draw strong performances from his supposedly hurting team.

Blue Eagle Player Joey Cruz, reportedly playing on an injured hamstring and ankle, Cone Scott has hammering while playing for Hopes in the recent PBL Finals.

Yet, the 6-foot-4 banger continued to dominate the paint, averaging 23.5 points and 11 rebounds in two outings thus far.

Dylan Ababon, whose hand was in a cast just weeks before the start of the season, also came out strong for the Tigers by firing 20 points to their 94-71 smashing of the Maroons over the weekend.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Another rider fails dope test

DUEHAS Hernandez on

DIJON, FRANCE—Fernando Escartin, a 38-year-old Spanish cyclist Mikel Astarloza Chaurreau and Dimas Hernandez Rubio, also a Spaniard, have been provisionally suspended by the International Cycling Union (UCI) after failing drug tests, the governing body announced Wednesday.

Escartin, who finished fifth in the Tour de France in 1998, tested positive for the banned substance EPO during the Tour of Spain in May.

Astarloza, a 28-year-old Basque, was provisionally suspended after testing positive for EPO during the Tour de France on July 15.

Hernandez, 27, who finished 31st in the Tour de France, recorded his first positive test for EPO during the Tour of Spain in May.

All three riders have been provisionally suspended by the UCI and will remain so until their cases are heard by the federation's disciplinary commission.

Escartin, who finished fifth in the Tour de France in 1998, is the most high-profile rider to be caught in the latest round of drug tests.

Astarloza, who finished 31st in the Tour de France in 2007, was also caught in the Tour de France in 2006.

It was the second dose of bad news for Basque-related cyclists during the Tour de France. Gorka Gonzalez, a 27-year-old Basque rider, was found dead in his tent on the first rest day of the Tour de France on July 15.

Gonzalez's death was initially thought to be a suicide, but an autopsy found that he died of hypothermia.

Gonzalez was riding for the Spanish team Saunier Duval-Scott, which has been hit hard by doping scandals in recent years.

Two of the team's riders, Riccardo Ricco and Leonardo Piepoli, were sent home from the Tour de France after testing positive for the blood booster CERA.

Ricco was subsequently banned from competition for two years after admitting to using CERA.

Piepoli received a two-month ban after claiming that he had taken the substance unknowingly.

Saunier Duval-Scott has been one of the most successful teams in the Tour de France in recent years, with Spaniard Oscar Freire winning the green jersey for the best sprinter in 2004 and 2005.

Freire finished second in the green jersey competition this year.

Other Spanish riders who have been caught using performance-enhancing drugs include Alejandro Valverde, who was banned for two years in 2006 after being implicated in Operacion Puerto, a doping ring that was broken up by Spanish police in 2006.

Valverde's ban was reduced to one year on appeal and he returned to competition in May 2007.

Another Spaniard, Inigo Landaluze, was banned for two years after testing positive for the steroid nandrolone during the Vuelta a Espana in 2006.

Landaluze, who was riding for the Basque team Euskaltel-Euskadi, was also banned from competing in the Tour de France.

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Coming soon: Premier League in the country

By Cedell P. Tipoo

THE PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL FEDERATION will launch the Philippine Premier League next month in the presence of world football's most powerful persons—International Football Federation (FIFA) president Sepp Blatter and Asian Football Confederation chief Mohammed Bin Hammam.

PFF president Mon Martinez yesterday said they are working on getting Manila-based teams to join the initial staging of the league, which will be expanded in the Visayas and Mindanao next year and will culminate with a national championship, drawing the winners from the three legs.

With the exception of the Filipino Premiere League, Martinez said he will propose to the AFC that the country be given a slot in the prestigious AFC Club Championships for the Dec/Jan.

Martinez said the PFF has already linked up with Sports Vision Management—the same firm that organizes and markets the Shakey's Volleyball League and Baseball Philippines—to organize the Premiere League. The PFL for its part, will provide technical support.

"We are hoping that the league will kick-off," said Martinez.

Martinez said Hammam will arrive in the country Aug. 1 to keynote the inauguration of the PFF House of Football in Pasig City which was built on a P400,000 (P163 million) grant from the Fifa Goal II Project.

Martinez said he is hoping that Fifa will also grant the Philippines' Goal III Project, which will pave the way for the construction of a football stadium in the country.

'Bazooka' fight ref named

By Salvio Lagumbay, Contributor

CEBU CITY—AMERICAN JEFFERSON SAUL Cain Jr. has been chosen by the WBA to be the third man on the ring when undefeated ALA Boy AJ "Bazooka" Rosal takes on Panama's Rafael Concepcion for the WBA super flyweight title on July 26 here.

The event will be joined by no less than WBA executive director Gilberto Jesus Mendoza, who will take on former three-division Philippine champion Ernie Sheena in a three-round exhibition bout.

Cain was also the referee when Oscar De La Hoya battled Mexico Fedor last May.

Cain is familiar with the Cebuano host, having worked the Ronnie Mickey-Pera contest. Knockout campaign. While hostic last year at the Waterfront Hotel.

Should the fight go the distance, tasked to pass the bout are judges Philippe Dobebe (Belgium), Francisco Martinez (New Zealand) and Chokevin Dusendusi (Thailand).

Supervisor for the bout will be the highly respected Tony Siop Sikon of Korea.

BCO Marvin Isbe of La Salle (front) will be one of the reasons Archers coach Franz Pumaren will rely on. EDWIN BACASMAS

Knights...

From page A30

Viray's jumper at the other end with another strong lay-up with 54.7 seconds remaining to fend off the Stags, who rallied a 22-12 advantage at the end of the first period.

Cabanero, one of four Letran players fouling after the session, came through with 14 points, including six straight after the Stags closed in 69-66 with 4:09 to go. Sam Beltran added 10.

"I told him (Cabanero) he was due for a big game," said Alas.

San Sebastian dropped to a tie at last place with Perpetual Help and Philippine Christian University at 1-4.

The Bombers broke away from a 36-all stalemate early in the third quarter by teaming up for seven straight points and Cagoco, who contributed to 11 points to allow JRU to open a 53-41 spread.

Earlier, the defending championship debutantes Stags, powered by Kevin Belangue' 27 points, kept their impressive record intact with a 76-70 triumph over Letran, their fifth win in as many games.

The main event:

Final Score

LETRAN 19—Jao 10, Cabanero 14, Amit 11, Olayuyin 4, Rosario 4, Bonquil 2, Gonzales 3, Sollitar 2, Belmonte 0, Del Rosario 0, Cortez 0, Ramos 0, Lalimarmo 0.

SAN SEBASTIAN 69—Aquino 12, Hamlet 12, Ong 10, Ramos 10, Salenga 9, Mercado 4, Sarmenta 3, Gonzales 3, Delgado 2, Bolanos 2, Jacildo 0.

Quarters: 12-22; 22-32; 41-41; 70-69

Second Game

JRU 76—Agoncillo 17, Jota 14, Ramos 9, Wilson 7, Hayes 7, Balagtas 6, Rubio 4, Fortes 3, Alvarez 2, Nat 1, Abellana 0, Ayeras 0, Kalingking 0.

PERPETUAL 70—Abeto 18, Ong 15, Salenga 12, Reyes 9, Yatco 8, Bringas-Dyquen 2, Dial 2, Bellosa 1, Mina 0, Lalata 0, Pablo 0.

Quarters: 19-18; 28-32; 38-41; 76-70

PHIL Mickelson misses the British Open as No. 1.

Ogilvy a major favorite without Woods

SOUTHPORT, ENGLAND—GEOFF OGILVY won his only major the one time Tiger Woods missed the cut as a pro. Here Woods is missing his first major since 1996, and the Australian could emerge from a wide open field to take home the British Open's Claret Jug.

Woods' withdrawal because of a knee injury makes Ogilvy the second first player in the field at the 137th Open at Royal Birkdale if the world rankings are a guide. Only Phil Mickelson is ahead of him.

Ogilvy won the 2006 US Open under Medinah, was double-bogeyed the final hole and, with a thing for links courses, tied for fifth at St. Andrews three years ago for his best finish as a British Open. He's finished twice as an ALPS.

The 31-year-old Australian has been creeping quietly along toward another major and his steady, unspectacular play could be suited to Birkdale which has been soaked by recent rain and punishes those who don't endure and the tough rough.

"I've just gradually gotten better," he said in a course that has brought only six strikes since 2005. "I feel like I was a really slow learner with golf. How to go about it, step-by-step on the golf course, how to approach it, how to practice, how my attitude needed to be on the golf course.

"I think I've learned from mistakes quite well and I just gradually worked it out. I don't know about any one attribute. I think I hit the ball OK. I think I dig OK and I think I putt OK. But I think it all adds up to a pretty good package."

Ogilvy hopes that the tough Birkdale course may put many of his big rivals out of contention.

"The golf course is fantastic—it's really difficult," he said. "It's playing really long, quite narrow."

Even the absence of Woods, who has three British Opens among his 14 majors, has been the biggest debating point here. The suggestion is that wherever voice on Sunday will almost be considered lucky because the world's best players aren't here.

"I just hope they've taught the engineer how to put an asterisk on the trophy," Ogilvy said. "That everyone will know what the true champion was all about."

SPORTS

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE: Angelo Que writes from Royal Birkdale

ANGELO Que watches his tee shot during an official practice round.

Ready for the big day

Angelo Que is the first Filipino to play in the British Open championship in 10 years. This is his diary from Royal Birkdale. The Open starts Thursday. —Ed

By Angelo Que, as told to Patrick Faizal Joyce

IT IS NOW THE TUESDAY OF THE Open Championship week and the crowds are getting bigger and bigger. As soon when I reached the golf course, there were around 20,000 people there already. Unbelievable how big this tournament is. It really is the biggest golf tournament in the world. I am so glad to be here and be a part of it.

On the practice range before teeing off, I noticed I was still hitting my driver a bit too high so I spoke with the equipment representatives from Callaway and they managed to build me a new driver with a much lower loft.

I tried it out and found that the ball flight with that one was much better suited to the windy conditions. Now I feel I have all the right equipment I need and am coming to grips with the shots I can play.

I teed off at 2 p.m. and it was surprisingly calm and warm, especially considering it was bitterly cold and overcast in the morning.

During the round, the wind did pick up considerably, which was exactly what I wanted because I wanted to see the changing winds in the afternoon.

There were some slight differences from the morning wind direction, but I realize it isn't so much that I need to worry about but rather gauging the strength of the winds.

It was important that I played in the afternoon because my tee time on Thursday is at 4.14 p.m. I wanted to get into the routine of starting so late in the day as well.

That evening, we had some people over in the house we are staying at, including David Duval from the Asian Tour and some journalists.

It was a really nice evening and we had a lot of laughs and some great food.

It is such a benefit to have friends and colleagues and, of course, my wife Tracy here with me to help me stay relaxed and comfortable.

One more day of practice and preparation until the big day.

I can't wait until Thursday!

Rodriguez bows out of match play

CYNA RODRIGUEZ GOT THE boot right in the first round of match play as she lowered to unheaded Anna Bordenabe, 4-&-3, in the WNGA (Women's Intercity Golf Association) 82nd National Junior Championship in Umatac, Indiana Tuesday.

It was a sorry loss for the 16-year-old Bataguena, who finished joint third in the stroke play elimination with a 74 only to lose to a lower-ranked player who barely made it to the tournament proper with an 88.

The setback is expected to toughen up the seven-stunner of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association Women's Amateur Championship as she competes in the coming weeks.

Over in California, Mike Kinjanlin fell short of his title bid, finishing joint second with Bryan Bim of Colorado in the San Diego County Amateur ruled by Brady Bagtas.

A missed-green bogey on the par-3 16th derailed Alejandro's charge as he ran out of holes and settled for an even par 72 and a 36-hole aggregate of 142, three shots behind Bagtas, who finished with a 71 and a 139. Kin also made it 72.

The other GCTO representatives, Anthony Penisoles and Simon Isidro, finished tie for 80th with identical 75s and 14th while Diana Beriero soared up joint 18th with 153 after a 76.

CYNA Rodriguez

BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

PREMIUM
Fuel up now

Gov't reports ₱769-M budget surplus in June

CONTROVERSIAL VEHICLE INSURANCE PROGRAM
Senate set chair Cesar Quintos, QSIS president and general manager Vicente Garcia and Assistant Transportation Secretary Bert Suarez assess the press conference Wednesday at The Peninsula in Makati City to explain and defend the coddled CTPL project of the Land Transportation Office that will be handled by the GSIS' sub, National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines. (See story on page B6.)
NOEL QUIAMBAO

BIR, Customs exceed collection targets

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT REGISTERED A budget surplus of P769 million in June, giving itself a fighting chance to post a smaller-than-expected deficit for the entire year, the Department of Finance announced yesterday.

The fiscal performance in June brought the government's budget deficit for the first half to only P116 billion, 56 percent lower than the P413 billion posted in the same period last year.

The latest six-month deficit was also lower than the P413-billion ceiling set by fiscal authorities for the period.

"We [Department of Finance] are encouraged by the good performance of our main revenue-generating agencies in the first half of the year," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

For the entire year, the government has set a revised fiscal target of posting a maintenance deficit of P75 billion. But Teves said a P75-billion deficit for the year would be a second consecutive annual...

He said the lower-than-programmed deficit in the first half
GOVT DEFICIT/B3

Energy-saving movement launched

REYES

By Abigail L. Ho and Rita T. Chichioco

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALLOcating P500 million for the procurement of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), lamp-sharing efforts to phase out incandescent bulbs by 2010.

In a speech during yesterday's launch of the Department of Energy-led "Switch to Efficient Lighting Philippines" movement, Presidential Adviser said the P500 million would come from the government's windfall from the 32-percent value-added tax slapped on oil and power.

She reiterated that the government would not scrap the VAT on oil and power as the Senate did that comes from the VAT windfall for earmarked the added burden that this posed on consumers.

The DOE-led Switch movement was kicked off yesterday by the ceremonial lighting of CFLs in 16 cities and one municipality in Metro Manila, representing the start of the National Capital Region's shift to energy-efficient lighting systems.

According to the DOE, the Switch movement is a social marketing and information education campaign to eliminate the use of inefficient Philippine coal power and help fight climate change.

"Switch is not a program, it's a movement. It means switching from a lifestyle of expenditure and waste to a lifestyle of conservation and efficiency. It's all about changing our way of life," Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

It aims to accelerate the adoption of best energy practices that are simple but strategic, and to lay the institutional framework to sustain such practices, it added.

The Switch movement also
ENERGY SAVING/B3

Group says private funding for social programs rising

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CORPORATE FUNDING FOR POVERTY REduction efforts and social programs increased 142 percent to P10.5 billion in 2002-2007 from P7.4 billion in the previous five-year period in items realized that "doing good makes good business sense," according to the League of Corporate Foundations.

LCF chair Marilou G. Real said yesterday that bulk of the private sector's social investments continue to grow, especially in education, even in the midst of economic difficulty.

Real was speaking at the opening of the three-day Corporate Social Responsibility 2008 conference at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City.

"Even then, we have seen a shift of investment in education from infrastructure to quality improvement," Real said.

"There was also a shift of priorities from tertiary to basic education," she added.

LCF data showed that the group's members, new 74, invested a total of P3 billion from July 2002 and June 2003. This was followed by the succeeding years by P2.6 billion, P1.5 billion, P2.4 billion and P3.8 billion.

Of these amounts, the allocation for education increased from about a quarter of the total five years ago to half in the period covering July 2006 to June 2007.

From January to December 2007, LCF members contributed a total of P6.1 billion for CSR programs. 77 percent of which went for education.

While companies invested in improving education, 89 percent went to the Adopt-a-School initiative while the rest went to scholarships and material assistance to students, efforts to integrate information and communications in education, support for learning areas besides learning and support, and investments in teacher education.
GROUP/B3

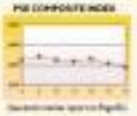
IN THIS ISSUE

- **SB Corp. lent P1.8B** to SMEs as of June, up 8.6% /B3
- **GSIS chief claims** gov't lost P2B due to fake CTPLs /B6

Currencies

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Stocks close 1.6% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.6 PERCENT lower yesterday as worries over the US financial sector prompted a sharp fall in oil prices, dealers said.

The composite index lost 59.58 points to 3,573.78. The all-share index gave up 17.30 points to 1,508.29.

Broker-dealers managed advancers 79 to 122 with 32 other issues unchanged.

Turnover fell to P1.85 billion from P2.30 billion on Tuesday.

"We expected the first quarter to be a lean period, and that is being compounded by investor concern over a second-round effect of the subprime crisis," Tess Rodrigo of BPI-Banco Securities told Dow Jones Newswires.

Dealers said the index still had room to drop, with support pegged at 3,340 points.

They said accessible issue by Ilio Bangko Central ng Pilipinas to increase its reserve rates. It might be going December expiration, many have "been cautious."

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was off 2.1 percent to P2,375.

Megaworld Corp. was down 0.4 percent to P1.14 and Manila Electric Co. dropped 0.6 percent to P37.

San Miguel "B" fell 1.2 percent to P41 while its "A" shares were unchanged at P48.
AFP

RP posts BOP deficit of $248M

Balance of payments gap in June due to hot money outflows, debt prepayments

By Michelle V Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS yesterday said the country incurred a balance of payments deficit of $248 million in June, a reversal of the surpluses posted in the past five months.

On a cumulative basis, however, the country still managed to post a BOP surplus of $1.03 billion in the first six months. This was, however, lower than the $2.118 billion surplus in January to May.

The BOP deficit in June was due largely to the substantial outflow of portfolio investments during the month.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said it could also be attributed to the servicing of foreign currency-denominated debts by the government and private companies.

"Nevertheless, the cumulative BOP position for the first half continued to be in surplus. This was achieved on account of continued foreign exchange inflows from overseas Filipinos, net gold sales by enterprises, foreign direct investments and investment income of the BSP," Tetangco told reporters.

The governor was also reported that exports managed to post growth of 3.1 percent in the first five months of the year.

OFW remittances, according to the BSP, grew by 14.7 percent in January to May to $6.8 billion.

The BOP, the difference between the amount of foreign currency inflows and outflows, is a record of a country's transactions with the rest of the world.

A healthy BOP position improves a country's ability to cushion its economy from sharp capital reversals arising from investor speculation. A BOP surplus also boosts a country's foreign currency reserves which, in turn, determine its ability to service import requirements and other foreign transactions.

Inflation soared to 11.4 percent in June, the fastest pace in 14 years, because of rising prices of oil and food products in the world market. The Philippines is heavily dependent on oil and rice imports.

Analysts earlier said high inflation could cause investors to stay at the sidelines and wait until price movements normalize before committing any interest plans.

High inflation makes the cost of doing business more expensive. If companies decide to tighten spending on nonessentials rebates, in turn, adversely affects the profitability of operations.

The BSP however, projects that inflation would begin to ease until year. It said it could cite the expected slowdown in global demand for oil and the resolution of more oil-production glut would address the problems of high inflation.

Singapore broker taps ATR KimEng

INVESTMENT house ATR Kimeng Capital Inc. said it would enter in an intermediated partnership of one of Singapore's largest stockbrokerages, Kim Eng Holdings, right as of offices, in managing deal executing cross-border corporate finance deals.

Kim Eng Holdings Ltd., a publicly listed financial services company in Singapore, is a shareholder of the ATR Kim Eng Group.

"This partnership will make possible significant synergies in ATR KimEng Capital's corporate finance capacities complements Kim Eng Securities' deals that has proved, and both companies' revenues are strengthened and diversified in terms of both product lines and geographical markets," said Manuel Tordesillas, president of ATR KimEng Capital, in a statement.

ATR KimEng Capital's strong growth prospects are further enhanced by the cross-border alliance between the Kim Eng Group and Mitsubishi UFJ Securities, a member firm of the largest financial group in Japan and one of the world's leading financial groups," he added.

ATR KimEng Capital embraces the posting to its offices of a dedicated Mitsubishi UFJ Securities representative to help identify and explore areas for cooperation. Tordesillas said.

E. S. Lacson

PSE asked to probe mining firm

By Daniel L. Lucas

RUSH, HOWEVER, FOR PLATINUM GROUP Metals Corp. has asked the local bourse to probe Oriental Peninsula Resources Group Inc.—with an eye toward having its shares suspended from trading—for allegedly conducting mining operations in Palawan "despite legal and physical impediments."

In a letter to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Platinum senior vice president Raoul Thomas asked the bourse "to address the issues at hand and, if warranted, that trading for Oriental shares be suspended pending investigation."

As early as December 2007, Platinum had already informed the PSE about Oriental's "improper disclosure" of the Palawan mining operations of its subsidiary Citinickel Mines and Development Corp., Platinum said.

"To date, and as previously disclosed, [Platinum] has published and acted pursuant to the mineral property ... pursuant to its operating agreement with Olympic Mines and Development Corp.," he added.

The Platinum official said that before Oriental or Citinickel can declare the mining property they were required by law to secure documents from the local government units of Palawan including the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) clearance from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

"Oriental and Citinickel in its representation to operate the subject property have not complied with the SEP requirement," he said. "Worse, Citinickel has used Tesda board's SEP clearance to comply with the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) mandatory requirements."

Rumulo added that Oriental's continued representation that there were no legal impediments for them or Citinickel to undertake any development or operations on the mineral property "and no claims or issues are pending before judicial and quasi-judicial bodies."

In its replies to avail, Oriental assures PSE saying that the allegations were baseless.

"Currently, Citinickel can operate on the mineral property subject of the foregoing pending proceedings, since there is no order issued by any court or quasi-judicial body that prevents or enjoins the company from performing or exercising its rights under the MPSA," Oriental's corporate information officer Josephine Ivy Conelo said.

"[Platinum's] contractual assertions that it has the published and acted pursuant to the mineral property covered by the said MPSA is anchored only on its allegation that it has an existing operating agreement with Olympic Mines," she explained. "The fact is, that operating agreement has long been canceled by [Olympic] on April 24, 2006, on the ground of grave violation by [Platinum]."

Energy-saving movement launched

From page B1

aims to promote a shift from petroleum-based lights to alternative bulbs such as fluorescent or light-emitting diode.

In rural areas, the switch movement will focus on getting users of kerosene for lighting to switch to renewable energy sources, particularly solar.

On the local level, the switch program aims to promote the development and use of renewable energy sources, such as wind and hydro, where feasible.

At the Alternative Fuels Forum yesterday, Transportation Undersecretary Annabelle Lantion said the government has identified P13.36 billion to funds for alternative fuel programs to help the transport sector cope with ever increasing pump prices.

Lantion said the money would come from the supplemental budget for 2008.

She said that of the total funding, P10 billion would be used to create a master plan for the alternative fuels program and another P3.4 billion to make a business plan for vehicle technology verification and testing.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pananalapi
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Department of Finance Circular

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BASIS OF PROJECT	QTY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT	DATE OF ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS
1. [illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
2. [illegible]	40	[illegible]	[illegible]
TOTAL		[illegible]	

PROJECT	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Opening
1. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

July 16, 2008 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.000000	1.000000	41.250000
Japan	Yen	0.009433	0.009433	0.389000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.964000	1.964000	80.987500
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.128205	0.128205	5.288500
Switzerland	Franc	0.955556	0.955556	39.412500
Canada	Dollar	0.980392	0.980392	40.437500
Singapore	Dollar	0.714286	0.714286	29.462500
Australia	Dollar	0.943396	0.943396	38.906250
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.312500	0.312500	12.887500
Thailand	Baht	0.030303	0.030303	1.249500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000107	0.004400
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.266667	0.266667	11.000000
Kuwait	Dinar	3.571429	3.571429	147.321400
Bahrain	Dinar	2.652520	2.652520	109.400000
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	0.272109	0.272109	11.224000
Qatar	Riyal	0.274725	0.274725	11.330000
Oman	Rial	2.597403	2.597403	107.142000
Iran	Rial	0.000099	0.000099	0.004100
Brunei	Dollar	0.714286	0.714286	29.462500
Kazakhstan	Tenge	0.007874	0.007874	0.324800
Russia	Ruble	0.039216	0.039216	1.617500
India	Rupee	0.024691	0.024691	1.018500
Sri Lanka	Rupee	0.009259	0.009259	0.381900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012346	0.012346	0.509300
Bangladesh	Taka	0.014706	0.014706	0.606600
Nepal	Rupee	0.015152	0.015152	0.625000
Vietnam	Dong	0.000059	0.000059	0.002400
Korea	South Won	0.000974	0.000974	0.040200
China	Yuan	0.146199	0.146199	6.030700
Taiwan	New Dollar	0.031250	0.031250	1.289000
Macau	Pataca	0.124224	0.124224	5.124000
Philippines	Peso	0.024096	0.024096	0.994000
Mexico	Peso	0.092593	0.092593	3.819400
Brazil	Real	0.588235	0.588235	24.264700
Argentina	Peso	0.322581	0.322581	13.306500
Chile	Peso	0.001923	0.001923	0.079300
Colombia	Peso	0.000526	0.000526	0.021700
Peru	Nuevo Sol	0.357143	0.357143	14.732100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.465116	0.465116	19.186000
Panama	Balboa	1.000000	1.000000	41.250000
Ecuador	US Dollar	1.000000	1.000000	41.250000

SB Corp. lent ₱1.8B to SMEs as of June, up 8.6%

By Bancrof W. Dantings

SMALL BUSINESS CORP. YESTERDAY REported that it lent P1.8 billion to micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in the first half based on new operationing a countrywide loan program for banks and other financial firms to lend based on rules rather than collateral.

Board Cagma, SB Corp. president and chief operating officer, said in a briefing that loans under the state bank's loan impact program since April 9 is 20 percent more than the previous month's figure of almost P1.7 billion.

Lagma said that as of June, SB Corp.'s best performing program was in wholesale microfinance, for which P435.9 million was released or almost double the P240.4 million in the first half of 2007.

Outside for the bank's MSME retail lending program went up 8 percent to P642.6 million from P224.8 million.

However, its wholesale lending program went down by 9 percent from P1.26 billion to P1.80 billion as just 75 percent of SB Corp.'s target for the semester.

"Still, we remain optimistic that we could reach our target of releasing a total of between P4.1 billion and P4.3 billion in loans and guarantees this year," Lagma said.

Virgilio R. Apuglo, SB Corp. chair and chief executive, said the increasing non-performing loans indicated the firm's success in "creating a more enabling environment for entrepreneurship by making loans readily available."

Lucy L. David, company senior vice president, said SB Corp. would benchmark credit and fraud lending environment as it recognized the need to implement credit assessment models that were less dependent on the capacity of MSME borrowers to put up collateral.

David said it would jumpstart a series of meetings and consultations to promote risk-based lending and borrowers risk rating system.

ERRATUM

Please be informed of the error on the Synopsis of Stronghold Insurance Company, Inc. dated May 12, 2008 for their

2006 Annual Statement:

	As Reported	As Restated
	Amount	Amount
Surplus	P 32,876,826.8	P 32,876,977.8

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Fisheries sector keeps output goal of 5.3M MT

By Arny R. Reyes

THE LOCAL FISHERIES SECTOR remains cautious about meeting a revised target of 5.3 million metric tons this year, despite the considerable damage caused by typhoons on fish ports and cages.

In an interview, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Malcolm I. Sarmiento Jr. said the bureau was sticking to its original target.

"We're not amending our target since we have intensified our operations of fishermen, particularly for tilapia and seaweeds in lieu of typhoon damages," Sarmiento said.

According to BFAR, it expects to hit an output this year of at least 2.7 million tons from the aquaculture sector; 1.15 million tons from commercial fishing; and 3.46 million tons from municipal fishing.

This year's target represents a more than 10-percent increase from last year's production of 4.7 million tons, which accounted for 35.44 percent of total agriculture output in 2007.

Sarmiento said BFAR expected to recover losses wrought by typhoon "Frank," particularly in Western Visayas, as it sets aside encouraging producers in Bangasinan and other regions to increase their output.

Mr. Morales urged the government now to demolish "illegal" fish pens and cages in Laguna de Bay, where almost 2/3 percent of tilapia output comes from.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources earlier ordered the clearing of Laguna de Bay through demolition of fish pens and cages.

To recover the damages brought by the recent typhoons, the Department of Agriculture placed the fisheries sector under a rehabilitation program, which will include a Kr/Emergency Employment program, Istrebuil of Fishing grow-like polyculture, livelihoods, fish corrals and gill nets, replacement of lawyers and motors in fish intermission, and the repair of damaged BFAR facilities.

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Aussies to invest ₱285M in veggie, fruit programs

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNment has committed to provide ₱285 million for two programs aimed at improving the productivity and export competitiveness of the vegetable and fruit industries in the country.

Through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Australian government has recently launched two horticulture programs in Davao to improve the quality of fruits and vegetables.

In a statement, the Australian Embassy in Manila said the renewed forms part of its 2008 official development assistance to the Philippines worth P4.4 billion.

The ODA is administered primarily by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid) and other related agencies such as ACIAR.

According to ACIAR, the four-year vegetable value chain program will look at developing a cost-effective protected vegetable cropping system, particularly in the high rainfall areas in Leyte and Mindanao, to produce high-value crops during the wet season when prices are high.

Meanwhile, the fruit value chain program, to be managed by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, will be implemented in Leyte, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

To be implemented over four years, the program aims to improve the productivity and export competitiveness of the four fruit crops, namely mango, papaya, durian and jackfruit.

Total cost of these two projects is estimated at P444 million, 64 percent of which will be shouldered by ACIAR, and the rest to be funded by contributions from stakeholders and collaborators. — Amy R. Reyes

Gov't reports ...

Continued B3

made it possible for the government to post a smaller deficit for 2008. Budget called for a medium-run scenario, the government would register a deficit of P40 billion to P45 billion that year.

The deficit for the first half was a result of the P870 billion in revenue collection and P586 billion in expenditures.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue accumulated P389.8 billion, exceeding the agency's first half collection target of P379 billion.

The Bureau of Customs, which collects taxes and duties on imported goods, contributed P137 billion in the first six months. The BOC also overperformed as it was officially tasked to collect P116.4 billion during the period.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which collects on behalf of the government the dividends from state-owned firms, remitted P28.5 billion in revenue. Other offices jointly collected P312 billion.

Expenditures for the first half fell below the program of P682.7 billion, making the government unable to fully realize the goal of jump-priming the economy given the impact of a global slowdown.

But Treas said expenditures were seen to rebound only in the second half as the government will spend more on social services, including subsidies to poor families, and on infrastructure.

Originally, the government intended to spend P1.24 trillion for the entire year, but this was raised by P96.3 billion to cover unexpected expenditures.

Treas said P28.6 billion in additional value-added collection would partly cover the above-mentioned spending. He said the rising prices of imported oil, which is covered by the 12-percent VAT, made it possible for the government to collect more bill than expected.

On the balance of P71 billion, the Bureau chief said the government was prepared to resort to borrowings. However, he said revenue agencies were losing encouraged to collect more than their full year targets to allow the government to borrow less than P71 billion.

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Natural calumny

Coronado R. Bernal III

WE JUMPED INTO RING AGAIN all the way up to another galaxy, after the sinking of the Solpicio Lines ferry MV Princess of the Stars. Well, it was such a huge issue to incite that the government simply could not do something to appease the mob.

Hell to the authorities "suspended" the shipping line. Nice.

I am not sure if the guys here in my barangay like such an automatic mechanical reaction of our little officials to the media. Everybody knew it was just a nice cover-up for the inefficiency of our maritime and weather authorities.

For who should suffer from such a suspension? I'm certain they are 9,237 the stockholders of Solpicio Lines. Those people will not miss a single news, not even a stock, because we presumed their records from debriefing food and other necessities and fuel in our barangay.

Based on media reports, the shipping firm accounts for about 60 percent of sea domestic sea cargo.

My info is that the mess rebuilds our income between 20 and 30 percent. Still, it is a sizable share, enough to affect the supply chain for food and what have you. And we all know of course what a shortage of anything can do to prices.

OK, the authorities suspended only the passenger vessels of the company, making sure that, for economic reasons, its pure cargo ships continued to sail.

In Ghana some have just OK'd the total cargo load of Solpicio. Those passenger vessels (minus the pure cargo vessels) actually account for more than half. Uh-oh.

Soon the trucking customers in Manila is also likely to lose business as a result of our picky knee. About 25 percent of the truckers' business in North (after about some scenes from the "suspended" shipping line.

And in area? The authorities happy yet? Gosh, the last time I checked, the sinking was to affect small of a natural calamity. There was a typhoon, a super strong one, which overkilled thousands of either people, destroyed whole towns and sent hundreds of ships to wards. Why are we zeroing in on a single incident? I hate.

BY THE way, you must have detected an element of calamity in the report of insurer Lloyds of London, regarding the theft record of "accidents" of Solpicio.

It was a fair item. If you know what I mean, for it was rather deficient in accuracy. For instance, it lists a vessel, the MV Carmen, in the mishap record. The vessel did not belong to Solpicio, okay?

Also, since the list was supposed a background for insurance men, it did not specify those 46 incidents involving Solpicio vessels. For instance, one incident caused by a welding contractor while the Solpicio vessel was undergoing maintenance on dry dock, was listed in the Lloyds report.

As for the infamous MV Doña Pia, it was proven that the mishap was the fault of an unregistered oil tanker that collided with the Solpicio vessel, which was of course, as Solpicio would readily admit, really overloaded.

But the question was, and still is, how come Solpicio got away with a the overloading?

I think it is about time that we come out with a list of all mishaps involving all shipping lines in this country, and list to try to analyze them. Maybe we can compare the track records of all these shipping lines.

Multinide it is the only way for us to improve on maritime safety.

* * *

AT LEAST 50,000 families in Aklan, Capiz, Antique, and Romblon—the provinces hardest hit by "Frank"—can expect $500,000 (or more than P22 million) worth of food items delivered by San Miguel Corp.

That is on top of the company's immediate donation of vending food to Iloilo, Roxas City, and Cebu right after the disastrous typhoon.

The donation will consist of various food items such as canned goods, instant noodles, coffee and bottled water.

"Many of our countrymen in these provinces are still struggling to survive the aftermath of Typhoon Frank," says San Miguel president and COO Ramon Ang. "Right now, hunger is a very real problem in these provinces and we would like to help address this."

The donation will mostly help the people in those provinces in their day-to-day survival needs for now. What about rumor-hing for them to stand up again?

"We hope to do some things that will make some difference to their struggle to rebuild their lives," Ang says.

Now, here is a tip to the people in those provinces: The Department of Social Welfare and Development will channel San Miguel food donations through the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Councils. Just so you will know who to call.

* * *

THE DBM said that, under the law, it could remit dividends to the national coffers since such a remittance would not affect the social fund of GSIS members.

A dismissed GSIS employee named Albert Albara filed a complaint before the Ombudsman on a P1 billion in GSIS dividend payment to the government in December 2004. That was almost four years ago. What timing!

Anyway, according to GSIS chief legal counsel Estella Gampaan, Republic Act No. 660 requires the GSIS to remit its surplus earnings to its so-called "general insurance fund," as against "social insurance fund," to the government.

The benefits of GSIS members come from the "social insurance fund."

That is why the GSIS members also received dividends of about P858 million in that same month. So what was the problem?

Well, it only goes to show the misunderstanding of the claim in that Ombudsman complaint that the GSIS netted the funds of GSIS members to remit P1 billion to the government.

The last time the GSIS remitted dividends to the government was in 1997, during the time of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Nobody is making even just a pinpoint about it, until now. Hmmm.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE Dr. Lalao's Medical Center at Sta Escobales just held a "topping off" ceremony, more than three years after its groundbreaking in February 2005.

Among the guests were members of the hospital's board of trustees led by chair Delores Ibasco and president Jose Ledesma, together with Petronilo Zobel and Glenn Ayala (Ayala group), Butch Campos (Del Rosario Development Corp.), and Tagaig City Vice Mayor George Elias.

You know—some big names! Wonder-ful MMC!

The hospital is slated for completion in October 2009 or, anyway, the 1.6-hectare prime lot at the first, with some 600 patient beds.

In the "topping off" ceremony, custom was chevroled into the upper deck of the 14-story hospital, which will actually become a helipad, meaning, it will be capable of receiving the latest medical emergency transportation on earth so far, big enough for a Huey helicopter.

The hospital will also have parking space for 1,400 vehicles. Really, MMC, watch out!

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PSBank US Dollar Time Deposit

'Distorted' pricing seen penalizing power sector

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SEEMING BRAKESIS OF the regulatory framework and the wholesale electricity spot market in distorting power prices, which may derail the government's privatization efforts, will depress it at much needed revenue.

In a recently issued report, New York-based Global Source said that following successes in the privatization last year and early this year, "a series of uncertainties seem to have settled over the industry."

"The latest deadlock is most likely linked to the continuing weakness in the regulatory framework and the spot market for electricity (trading). These weaknesses have led to low revenue tariffs at a time when fuel costs are rising and the local currency is weakening," the report said.

"While the government still considers more than 50 percent of the country's generating assets, public finances may come under fisk should current price signals persist. As it is, local bankers are already worried about the profitability of their clients in the power industry," it added.

According to the report, the last two months had seen WESM prices dropping sharply to their lowest levels since the start of commercial operations in June 2006—and this at a time when prices of fuel, a huge component of power cost, were soaring.

Spot market prices had fallen so low that they had already gone below the variable operating cost of coal-fired coal fired power plants, the report said.

"From all indications, the price drop was likely the result of the market's division, which makes prices energy-like to energy in the bids of a small group of players, mostly still government operating under a weak or non-existent incentive framework at this time," the report added.

On the regulatory side, price signals were blunted by uncertain demand, Global Source said, with the Energy Regulatory Commission seeming to slip that to do own rules and unclear extension it had made with National Power Corp. in the past.

Thinking and acting fast should come automatically.

ALTERNATIVE THINKING ABOUT MONITORING:

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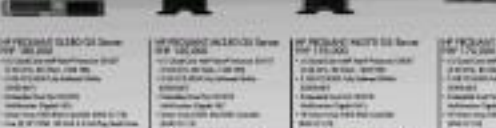


hp

GSIS chief claims ...

From page B1

cured," Zarria said.

Zarria said their companies were Great Domestic Insurance, SF General Insurance Co., Pacific Surety and Insurance Corp., Security Pacific Insurance, Integrated Surety, Standard Insurance, South Sea Surety and Insurance, People's General Insurance, and Metropolitan Surety and Insurance.

These companies are members of the Philippine Insurance and Reinsurance Associations (PIRA), the organization of multi-line insurance companies.

In response to Zarria's allegations, Pena said it was not true that only a few non-life insurance companies were involved in the "issuance of selling CTPL in the Philippines."

Hanwen Ramajo, chair of PIRA, claimed that there were more than 20 non-life insurance companies that are in the business of selling CTPL. He said some of them were engaging in cartel behavior and that all of them were advocates of market competition.

"We don't know where PIC Garcia got his information, but it is definitely not true," Ramajo said in a phone interview.

Group says private ...

From page B1

businesses and physical areas.

It found that in terms of what has been gained in 2007, the average test score in all subjects in the National Achievement Test increased to 59.99 percent from 54.66 percent in 2006.

"There was also a decrease in dropout rates in elementary from 7.33 percent in 2006 to 6.37 percent in 2007," Tiru said.

She added that in health efforts for schoolchildren, the LGU's feeding program's beneficiaries of 876,758 preschool and Grade 1 pupils in 2006 rose by 588 percent to 2.7 million preschoolers and Grades 1-6 pupils in 2007.

"This reduced the ratio of kids with below-average body mass index from 20 percent of grade school children (technology per elementary and special education) to 2006 to 17 percent in 2007," Tiru said.

The LGU chair said the top need in CDR investments and the drift in priorities showed that companies were asking themselves whether they were doing enough, doing it right and whether they were truly making a difference.

BUSINESS

GSIS chief claims gov't lost ₱2B due to fake CTPLs

By Michelle V. Rocas

WINSTON GARCIA, PRESIDENT and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, said the government lost P2 billion in potential tax revenues from 2006 to 2007 from the sale of fake third-party liability insurance to vehicle owners.

He described the fraudulent insurance policies being sold to motorists now coming only from a few erstwhile insurance companies that are allegedly operating as a cartel.

Garcia made these claims yesterday in a press conference to assail the bidders' protest against the GSIS' decision that it was necessary for the government to adopt the CTPL proposal system for distributing compulsory third-party liability (CTPL) insurance to vehicle owners.

"The system is the best solution to the ongoing problem of selling of fake CTPLs," Garcia said. He said people against the CTPL proposal were only those selling fake insurance policies to those who benefit under the alleged cartel.

Under Garcia's proposal, GSIS will be the sole provider of CTPL to all motorists nationwide. Individuals who go to any branch of the Land Transportation Office to register his or her vehicle will automatically get a CTPL insurance coverage. The cost of which will be included in the registration fee.

Currently, vehicle owners are free to choose where to buy CTPL, a requirement for registering a vehicle.

Garcia claimed there were nine non-life insurance companies operating as a cartel and accounted for 75 percent of the total legitimate CTPL being sold in the country.

"They account for a big chunk of the market and they charge customers similar amounts. What else can you call that but a [illegible]

Maximized Multi-tasking Made Possible by HP's All-in-One Printers

Manila, Philippines, June 2008 – In today's fast-paced business world, more companies are demanding products that combine multiple functions. Gone are the days, for instance, when the sole purpose of printers was to print out documents. To integrate processes and boost productivity, they are now expected to perform other tasks as well. With this in mind, HP has come out with two printers that do just that.

Low-cost, high quality

The HP Officejet Pro L7380 All-in-One provides the perfect solution for those seeking to save themselves from the trouble of operating different equipment as well as from a cluttered office. Combining the functions of a printer, fax, scanner and copier, it eliminates the need to purchase the four machines separately. Also, its ability to print brilliant color photos and laser-quality text at a cost per page that is 50% lower than that of most lasers further helps you save money. Aside from cost-efficiency, the HP Officejet Pro L7380 is more than capable of providing high-quality printing results. Delivering printing speeds of up to 35 pages per minute (ppm) for black-and-white and 34 pages per minute for color, it is bound to give a boost to your productivity.

Perfect for the environment-friendly

Just like the L7380, the HP Officejet Pro L7590 All-in-One combines four functions print, fax, scan and copy in just one device. Along with this convenience, the series also offers numerous features that increase productivity. With a 50-sheet automatic document feeder and maximum printing speeds of up to 35 pages per minute for black and white and 34 pages per minute for color, you are sure to tackle your most urgent printing tasks quickly. It also helps you cut costs by delivering up to 50% lower cost per page than competitive laser printers. Meanwhile, its built-in wired networking allows you to share a printer with multiple users. The HP Officejet Pro L7590 also proves to be environment-friendly. Along with its low energy consumption, it further helps you take care of the environment by cutting down paper consumption with its automatic two-sided printing.

Prices start at P17,990.00 for HP Officejet Pro L7590 and P10,990.00 for HP Officejet Pro L7380.

About HP

HP focuses on simplifying technology experiences for all of its customers – from individual consumers to the largest businesses. With a portfolio that spans printing, personal computing, software, services and IT infrastructure, HP is among the world's largest IT companies, with revenue totaling $91 billion for the fiscal period ended April 30, 2008. More information about HP (NYSE: HPQ) is available at www.hp.com.

IN THIS ISSUE
- Potato 'bibingka' and other new dishes /D1
- Pinoy's Napa wine earns raves /D4

LIFESTYLE Food
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan

New Thai place does wonders with crabs

There's even crispy 'pata,' Thai style

KITCHEN RESCUE

Maggie Aglipay

WHO DOES NOT LOVE crab with tamarind? Don't we all have specific dates set for San Mateo, along Gregorio Jr. for it, no matter where we're from?

And that, for later! The restaurant is Makati office Sea Oh Moon Seafood—Thai Style (on Pearl Alaskan King Crab with Glass Noodles. A twist on the old-new theme in water, equally delicious with garlic tasty legs of Alaskan king crab and lots of seasonings, what a treat! Nothing about crabs legs, Alaskan specifically is that you are spared the tedious peeling process, allowing you to get to the tasty part in no time.

Adds Jesse Thai Style Crab with Tamarind, also served are Pan Fried

AZUTHAI'S Pan Oh Moon Seafood—Stir Fried Alaskan King Crab with Glass Noodles

VIEW PAGE 11

Lip-smacking *leche flan*

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

By Norma Chikiamco
Contributor

TRADITIONAL KAPAMPANGAN cuisine is the star attraction this month in Hotel InterContinental's Café Jeepney.

The rich buffet of dishes cooked the old-fashioned way includes native favorites like sisig with bare lechón with fermented rice, pinkaing (deep-fried carabao meat), pasad de lengua, chok-chok (coconut pudding) and bicol de mercedes.

The kitchen's recipes come from Gillian Lacuna Barrameda, an authority on the traditional food of her home province of Pampanga.

Cooking since she was a young girl, Barrameda has won several culinary competitions and has hosted two cooking shows. In her home in Mexico, Pampanga, she prepares meals using utensils that date back to a hundred years, like the Sisa bicho cookers, for example, are made with 18th century wood-iron molds.

One of the best-loved desserts in the Kapampangan buffet is the *leche flan*, made with fresh carabao's milk, the recipe for which Barrameda generously shared. I created it at home and found the result lip-smacking. The *flan* is tender and delicate, yet very rich.

(The festival of Kapampangan cuisine is being held at Café Jeepney until July 31. Call 7937000.)

D.I.Y.
RECIPE CORNER

Leche Flan

For the syrup
½ c + 2 tbsp sugar
¼ c water

Flan:
½ c sugar
1 ½ c fresh carabao's milk
1 300-ml can sweetened condensed milk
18 egg yolks
Zest of 2 dayap or ½ lemon

Prepare the syrup

Heat the ½ cup sugar in a saucepan over medium heat until it turns slightly. Carefully pour in water and shake the pan to blend. If any sugar crystal forms, remove it, leave the rest of the melted sugar in the pan.

Add the remaining 2 tbsp sugar and let simmer until bubbles form on the sides. Pour immediately into ten to three leche flan molds, distributing evenly. Tilt molds so the bottom of the molds are evenly coated with the syrup.

Make the flan

Combine sugar, carabao's milk, condensed milk, egg yolks and zest in a bowl. Mix until well blended. Strain into prepared molds, dividing equally and pressing the mixture to extract flavor from the zest.

Steam in a steamer for one hour or until firm. Let cool. To serve: Run a spatula along the sides of the mold to loosen the flan then invert onto a serving dish.

TIPS

- Fresh carabao's milk is available in the provincial food section of Market! Market!, Taguig. Look for the Nueva Ecija stall. You can also order through the Philippine Carabao Center. Call 7297411.
- Lilian Barrameda says you can also make this recipe using evaporated milk, but the color of the leche flan will be dark-er yellow.
- When making the syrup, be very careful when you pour the water into the hot sugar. The mixture will bubble so add a little of the water first then pour in the remaining water when the sizzling stops.
- Do not stir the sugar as it doesn't crystallize. Instead, shake the pan and use a pastry brush dipped in water to brush the sides of the pan.
- If any of the burnt sugar crystallizes after you pour in the water, remove it. Add ½ c sugar instead of 2 tbsp so you get an adequate amount of syrup.
- As soon as you remove the syrup from the heat, pour immediately into the flan molds. Otherwise, the syrup will harden and will be impossible to use.
- After pouring the syrup into the molds, the molds will be very hot. Use a pot holder to hold the molds when tilting them to coat the bottom of the pan with the syrup.
- To get the dayap or lemon zest, grate the rind of the dayap or lemon using a fine grater. Grate only the outer part, do not use the lemon white/or pith which is bitter.
- For a more pronounced citrus flavor, add the grated zest after the mixture has been strained into the molds.

CADIZNHE Plaza's Pan-Fried Diced Chicken With Dry Chili

FISH OUT OF WATER [SL, Greenbelt 3, Makati; tel. 7290858] features Baby-back Ribs with Honey Sauce. Must-try dishes are Fried Sushi Maki-style, Twice-cooked Pork Belly, Jerry's Lumia Tortang Talong, Baked Hamonado Clams Cocido Daan, Steamed Scallops, Pan Roasted Dalagang Bukid, Prince Clam and Calamari Pasilo, Fried Oysters with Smoked Bacon and Asparagus Cream, Cool Fusili Salad with Chopped Octopus and pili, Crisp rellenong Pusit, Pan-seared Lapu Lapu with Uni Cream, Other dishes include Hokaido Oysters, Balamnis alang, Visayan Kalbog, Fried Pyaghgs, Gumbas, Dulich.

Hot and spicy flavors of Sichuan

THE SICHUAN FOOD FESTIVAL will be held at Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila's 17th Fair On on July 28-Aug. 31. Guest master chefs Wang Keng Jun and Li Yu Zhong from InterContinental Chengdu will showcase their distinctive style of Sichuan cooking. Featured dishes are Hot and Sour Sichuan Soup, Wild Black Fungus Salad, Sichuan Dumpling with Chili Oil, Chilled Poached Noodle with Chicken, Dan Dan Noodles, Stir-Fried Prawn with Peanut And Dry Chili, Poached Sliced Beef with Garlic Leaf, Poached Mandarin Fish Sauté-Sichuan Style, Steamed Sliced Beef Chengdu Style, Double-Cooked Pork Slices Sichuan Style, Sauteed Cattle Fish with Pickled Chili, Stir-fried Scallops, Steamed Scallop with Mapo Bean Curd. Call 8266114 or 8907222, Ext Tien Shi or ext 45, Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

Allure of truffles

The Peninsula Manila's Mi Piace presents The Allure of Truffles festival until July 27. Resident Italian chef Massimo Veronesi creates dishes featuring truffles. Featured dishes are Roasted Veal Shank Ravioli with sage butter sauce and summer truffle; Truffle-crusted Scallops and braised white asparagus and summer truffle; Veal Scaloppini with white asparagus, roasted potato, arugula salad and fresh summer truffle; Seasoned US Beef Carpaccio with crispy polenta, summer truffle, pecorino cheese and arugula salad; Truffle-crusted Cod Fish with pumpkin gnocchi, sautéed spring vegetables and truffle sauce; Tiramisu Mascarpone Cheese, Pastry, Tomas Morato, Timoteo Aguinaldo, Quezon City; Blue Moon Restaurant Mall, Marikina, University of Santo Tomas Campus, Manila, Petron Station, Aliaga, Nueva Ecija, Mountainside, Hilltop Station, Camp John Hay, Baguio City, Mamou de Manila University, Sorosoro Building, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Brent School, Baguio City, Session Road, Baguio City.

Heavenly treats

Heaven 'n Eggs proffers Asian big plates, pastas, sandwiches, French toasts, recipes, pancakes, waffles, steaks, lunch and dinner baskets, omelets and scrambles, salads, soup, appetizers and desserts. Heaven 'N Eggs is at ORO Bldg., Tomas Morato, Quezon City (tel. 3743613); G/F, Shumaha II (8383782), Fuente Circle, Salcedo Village (8121172); and Tribeca Mall Rockwell's Triangle, Quezon City (8913608).

Cowboy ribs & steaks

Get a taste of the Wild West as Texas Steakhouse Grill adds new dishes to its menu. Indulge in Cowboy Ribs and Steaks plus New York Junior's Original Cheesecake and Grape Delight. Cowboy ribs like Beef Short Ribs and steaks such as flat iron steak will be available beginning July 16. Texas Steakhouse Grill is in Serra High Street (tel. 856 1547) and El Pueblo, Ortigas (8368791).

THE MEI Crab Seafood Club [SL, of Greenbelt 3, Makati City, tel. 7234120, 7234114] offers Japanese Korean Buffet. Daily lunch buffet is priced at P588+ per person; dinner buffet, Sunday to Wednesday, P699; Crabby Nights buffet (Thursday), P888++; and grand dinner buffet, P1100+, Friday and Saturday.

ROSEMARY-CRUSTED PINK SALMON
Choice cut of salmon per fried right with a seasoned flair and rosemary cream accent sets up this luscious soft palette, all too ready for a dessert in a perfect mix of a sauce. Mango extract delivers this zesty crowned with perfectly mixed cucumber, red onions plus generous leaves and a burst of tomato ingredients that introduce the pot and plate to a whole fully engrossing, delightful deliciousness. A cup of green tea elevates this dish to a true culinary treat.

Dining Out

to assist globe with rebates and trade finance. Call 8973888 extensions 6761, 6726 and 6694.

Mexican feast

Spice up your taste buds as Café d'Arte Restaurant of The Bellevue Hotel serves up Mexican food until July 20. Dine into Tex Mex with Salsa Pollo, Enchilada Mexicana, Cheese Filled Enchiladas and Beef Picadillo during lunch and dinner. Call 771 6181.

Pizza Fridays

Pizza Fridays, a pizza party organized by Greenwich, has been spicing up the afternoons and evenings of celebrities, artists, young executives and media people. Pizza Fridays is part of the Greenwich Overloaded campaign which is geared toward the market of youngsters. It is an opportunity for office mates and dark-siders to have a fun way to sap off a busy week, letting them bond over delicious pizzas and playful activities.

Hotshots' new offerings

Hotshots has launched its new products: Fried Chicken, Tacos, Carbonara, Fresh Potato Strips, Grilled Chicken and Cheese, Grilled Blanket Spaghetti, Mini-crunchy Chicken and Cheese. Hotshots has 12 branches nationwide in Blue Wave Complex, Mezzanine Avenue, Pasay; Pilar Drive, Bel-Air Village, Makati; Tomas Morato, Timoteo Aguinaldo, Quezon City; Blue Wave Marquisite Mall, Marikina, University of Santo Tomas Campus, Manila, Petron Station, Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Filling Station, Camp John Hay, Baguio City, Mamou de Manila University, Sorosoga Building, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Brent School, Baguio City, Session Road, Baguio City.

Healthy chicken dishes

LEMON Rosemary Chicken With Warm Corn Salad

HAY MIX PERE POKER CHIcany Grosso offers healthy chicken such as Herby Banana Peppered Chicken, Chicken Satay-ki, Lemon Rosemary Chicken with Warm Corn Salad and Layered Eggplant Casserole.

For more delicious, healthy recipes, visit www.magnoliafood.com.

Lemon Rosemary Chicken with Warm Corn Salad

1 whole Magnolia Chicken Inasian chicken
Salt and pepper to taste
3 pc lemon
2 tbsp rosemary
2 tbsp olive oil

Warm Corn Salad:
1 tsp Magnolia Gold Butter
2 cup fresh corn, kernels cut from cob
¼ pcs red onion, chopped
2 tbsp parsley chopped
salt and pepper to taste
Preheat oven to 350°F.

Remove any bits of loose fat on the chicken. Pat dry all over. Sprinkle salt and pepper generously over and inside the chicken. Rub on the rosemary and massage chicken to infuse flavor.

Cut the 3 lemons into wedges then place inside the cavity of the chicken. Seal opening with toothpicks. Slice the remaining lemon very thinly. Loosen skin on the chicken then stuff the thinly sliced lemons under the skin. Drizzle olive oil over the chicken.

Place chicken on a roasting rack then wrap with Glad Aluminum foil. Place rack onto a tray then bake for 2 hours or until fully cooked (insert a paring knife between the thigh and the breast when the juices comes out clear, chicken is fully cooked).

Remove Glad Aluminum Foil then bake for another ½ hour to let chicken brown. Cut into quarters and serve with the Warm Corn Salad.

To make the Warm Corn Salad: Heat butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in corn and onions and cook for 5 minutes. Mix in parsley and season with salt and pepper. Serve immediately.

Makes four servings of approximately 330 calories.

Layered Eggplant Casserole

¼ c eggplant
¼ c onion, chopped
1 tbsp Magnolia Gold Butter
½ c Magnolia Cheddar Cheese, grated
2 pcs eggs, beaten
1/8 tsp hot sauce
½ tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
2 tbsp Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, grated
1/8 tsp paprika
1 c tomatoes, for topping
Preheat oven at 350°F.

Slice eggplant into ¼-inch thick slices. Grill until tender. Set aside.

Sauté onion in butter until soft. Transfer cooked onions in a round clear mold in cheese, eggs and hot sauce. Season with salt and pepper. Toss to mix.

Arrange a layer of the eggplants in the bottom of an oven proof baking dish. Pour 1/3 of the egg mixture then make two more layers of eggplant and egg mixture ending with a layer of the eggplant slices.

Sprinkle 2 tbsp of grated Quickmelt cheese and paprika. Bake for 30 minutes or until knife inserted comes out clean. Top with coconut before serving.

Makes four servings.
Approximately 170 calories per serving.

No-guilt Chicken Enchilada

2 tbsp olive oil
½ c onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ c tomato sauce, diced
1½ c canned diced tomatoes
1/8 tsp pepper
2 tsp green bell peppers, chopped
1 c Magnolia Chicken Breast Inasal fillet boiled and chopped
4 pcs flour tortillas
½ c Magnolia Cheddar Cheese, grated, divided (optional)
6 pcs pitted black olives, sliced
½ c plain low-fat yogurt
Preheat oven at 375°F.

Cook onions, garlic and mushrooms in olive oil, stirring occasionally about one minute. Add tomatoes, pepper and bell peppers. Reduce heat to medium and cook 3-4 minutes until sauce is thickened.

Transfer half of sauce in bowl and mix in chicken. Set aside.

Heat tortillas about one minute in skillet to make it flexible. Divide chicken evenly among the tortillas. Divide half of the grated cheese evenly on top of chicken. Roll up. Place seam side down in 8 x 8 x 2-inch baking dish. Top with remaining sauce and cheese. Bake for 15-20 minutes.

Top with olives. Serve with yogurt.

Serves four.

Book of food products, from Dumaguete's dried salted fish dip to Pateros' 'balut afritada'

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

WHEN I TRAVEL TERRITORIAL or the country, I usually rely on friends who live in the place I'm visiting to tell me what specialties I can get there. Many times, the products aren't available in stores or in the market but come from homes.

And then there are the products shown in malls with booths that either look like an extension of the wet market or are at least native artistic in presentation. Some people use these occasions as opportunities to buy what can't usually be found in their home ground. Others seek out only what's new in these shows and of late have been disappointed that no one has come out with something more inventive than the usual.

The latest exhibit of products was at Megamall in Mandaluyong City (July 9-12) as part of the One Town, One Product (Otop) program of the government. That involves identifying the particular product a town does well and does pushing to, gather resources of government and private sector to do the following: "business counseling, skills and entrepreneurial training, product design and development, applying appropriate technologies and marketing," according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The Otop is patterned after the One Village One Product movement that began in the Oita prefecture in Japan. I was informed of it years back by my sisters, who lives and works in Oita, because she had seen a brochure in Taiwan that also adopted the program. I'm glad to report to her that we have our own version.

I wasn't able to go to the exhibit because I had to leave for Cebu but requested a friend to buy products she thought would interest me. What she brought was a book.

Handsome book

"Philippine Food Products Catalogue" wasn't displayed prominently in the DTI booth but was brought out only when she

www.o

New Thai place does wonders with crabs

From page C1

Prong Entrée, like Fried Alaskan King Crab with Yellow Curry. Other items on the menu are the papaya salad, and the corn puree, which is very well done—nice, light and refreshing. The Fried Asparagus with Garlic is yummy, too. Interesting is the Thai-style crispy pancrabs, two clipping stocks, which are so good, one may as well drink them.

Food at AnuThai, under the highly skilled hands of their imported Bangkok chefs, serves Thai like no other.

Congratulations to the Gaerlans, who have managed to establish yet another superior place to dine and enjoy food as it should be. With the continued success of Milkyway, the family's long standing Filipino restaurant, and the superiority of Tonkii, AnuThai will surely be a force to reckon with in Thai cuisine in the country.

AnuThai is at G/F Milkyway Bldg., 900 A. Arnaiz Ave. and Dasmariñas, Makati. Call 8176252 to 8867.

Yummy Pieces of Cake's mini-tier and cupcake buffet

Many readers asked why there was no photograph of the mini-tier and cupcake buffet. Understandably enough as we like to have as many photos for you to enjoy our pages do have limitations. But since you asked for it, here it is. Contact Yumi or Carlo Castillo at 3839200 or e-mail yummypieces@gmail.com.

I remember that two to three years ago, you featured a charcoal burner that is said for stewing meat and chicken. With the rising cost of LPG, it becomes clear that this local cooking gadget is of prime importance to a more gourmet cost conscious like me. So, can you please tell me the manufacturer and his/her contact number?

—JESSIE (a fellow Quezon Ilonga lilwa)

Are certain that you are referring to Jay Charcoal Stove! Did you know that they now have smokeless grillers, a charcoal oven and a plancha (flat iron) to add to their list of inventions?

Haven't tried the corn in the plantas. Though I am extremely curious about the flat iron since Mr. Metrofolks claims it works like a charm, I am afraid. Can you let the perfect Ilonga gentleman and try it first before I buy one? Can you let me know if your does lemongrass syrup?

I agree, ultra unique! With the cost of electricity and LPG these days, diamond stoves are the best to use especially for nilupa and whatever requires long and slow cooking. Their new model works on either charcoal or firewood! They don't stop moaning! Going to lugaw Friday? They even have kalan that uses fit industrial-size pots and pans!

Raul Hernandez...(0920-910-1420)

I am Didi, a housewife whose family loves bangus but is tired of just eating it fried. Do you have other bangus recipes that are easy to prepare for my family to enjoy? More power!

One of my favorite sweetsours for bangus is steamed. Since it is a steamed fish, it takes on well to different flavors, particularly those that go into a Chinese-style steamed fish recipe.

Take note of these cooking times and these tips for success. Choose bangus that is at least over a kilo, that means the belly fly there is substantial and so is the meat. Steaming time: ...8-10 minutes (for fish 1-2 kilos and larger); 10-12 (for bangus 1.5 kilos and above). Make sure the water pan is ¾ full and the steamer/wire bed loses on a running boil for at least seven minutes before steaming.

Steamed Bangus Chinese Style

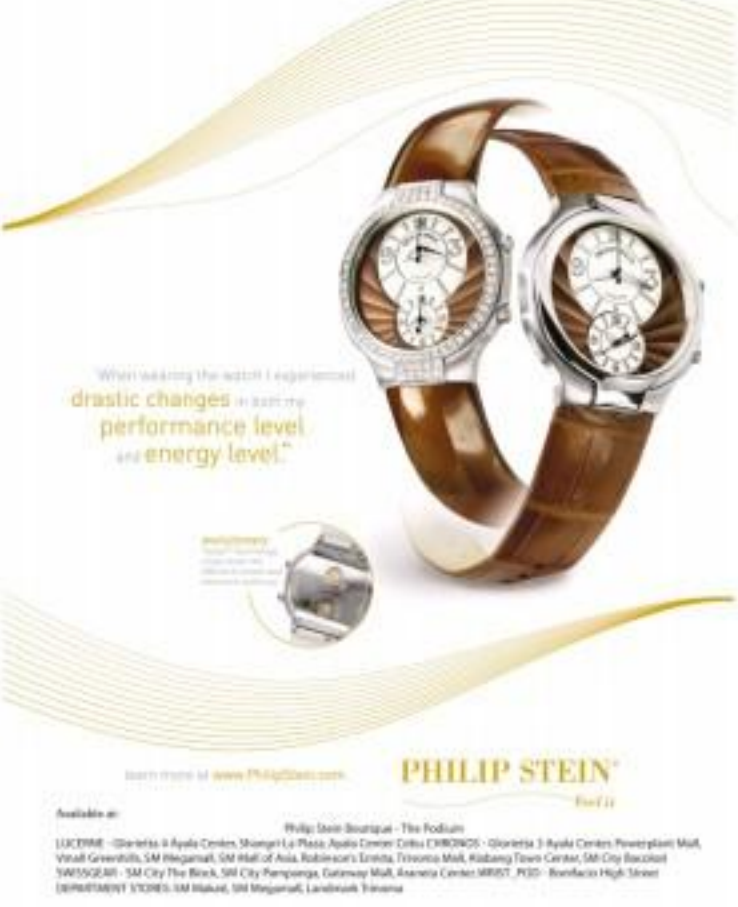
- 1 whole bangus, deboned
- 1-inch pc of fresh root ginger, peeled and cut into thin strips
- 4 spring onions, sliced 1-inch lengths
- 3 cloves garlic, sliced thinly
- 2 tbsp Xiao Xing or rice wine
- ½ tbsp light soy sauce
- 1 tsp fish on a plate
- 2 thinly distribute ginger, garlic and green onions
- Combine Xiao Xing and soy sauce and drizzle over fish.
- Leave to marinate 10-20 minutes.
- Steam.
- Transfer to a serving plate. Make sure you transfer the fish frame (skipping bones) for fish to the serving plate as well.

For the sauce:

1 tbsp sesame oil

- Add rice wine, light soy sauce, water and sugar and bring to a boil.
- Add rest of the ingredients.
- Cook for one minute, do not overcook.
- Pour over fish.
- Garnish with chinese sprigs and green onions.

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph



Finely crafted beers and good food

OLD SWISS INN, WHERE ONE HEIDI SERVing authentic Swiss cuisine since 1946, partners with Global Beer Exchange (GBE) to bring in specially selected fine American craft beers to complement its menu.

GBE carries beers from the Bullitt Point Brewing Company, Rjpaw and Gordon Biersch Brewing Company.

Jim Schantz of GBE advises Old Swiss Inn diners to start with the light OB Marzen, a Grade B easily assured beer with honey-spicy flavors. It has a rich, flavorful aroma and a bold, sweet taste that goes well with Old Swiss Inn's Alpine-pate sausage.

The OB Hefeweizen, a Grade B grainy and fruity beer, goes well with Classic Fondue while the Yellowstone Ale, which is a B+ bready beer with flavors of cyanic, has a mild malt sweetness and a touch of fruit that goes well with Old Swiss Inn's Schnitzel sausage.

Lastly, the Golden Amber Ale, a favorite of many, is a strong and marvelous beer with five percent concentration of alcohol.

It is Grade A cuisine ordered ale that's both

HEFEWEIZEN, outstanding beer with creamy vanilla, banana and zesty clove flavors. A hint of whipped cream is dessert to the good viewers.

OMEGA, corned pork tenderloin served with Sauerkraut and potatoes

bready and tasty with notes of maltiness and some ripe fruit aromas. The Golden's flavors are perfect with Old Swiss Inn's famous Ginger Crusted pork tenderloin served with sauerkraut and potatoes.

All these beers are organic, made without preservatives and with zero percent fat and zero percent cholesterol.

"These beers are as good as wine and are aged A or B," Asunsta said. "We are here to provide customers a different kind of experience by serving beers in wine glasses to really enjoy it, pour the beer into and drink from the glass. Not from the bottle. From the glass, the drinker can let the aromas and flavors of the beer fill all his senses."

Since the imported American craft beers of GBE are preservative-free, they last from six months to a year if stored properly. Per Old Swiss Inn and Global Beer Exchange, they store their beers in 24/7 air-conditioned rooms, selected and monitored closely by experts.

Also available at Old Swiss Inn are the sweet and spicy Grade A Big Eye India Pale Ale that goes well with Old Swiss Inn's Gulasch, while the Grade B+ OB Bohemian, which has an interesting sweet vanilla flavor is good with the restaurant's famous Raclette and the Grade B OB Blonde Bock pairs perfectly well with Swiss Inn's garlic sausage.

Visit the Old Swiss Inn at The Garden Plaza Hotel and Suites at 1830 Belen St., Boo, Manila (tel. 523.8802, 5262750, 5264855 (ext 111); G/F Sanmonte Olympia, Makati Avenue cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati (8180251, 8186098, 8120163 (ext 111 to 112); and 2/F SMDV Administrium Lounge, Commerce cor. Madrigal Avenue, Ayala Alabang (8092128).

HENRY SISON CULINARY SCHOOL

Where Learning is a Delightful Experience

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1/2 kilo pork ribs, cubed
1/2 kilo chicken thighs
3 tablespoons garlic, pounded
1 medium onion, sliced
Salt and pepper to taste
1 teaspoon whole pepper
1/2 cup vinegar
1/2 cup soy sauce
1/2 cup water
3 pieces laurel leaves (optional)

MEAT

1 Saute the garlic and 1 tablespoon onion.

2 Add the pork and chicken and brown together. Season with salt and pepper. Add the whole pepper, then the vinegar over the sautéed mixture. Don't touch the mixture until the vinegar boils and releases its pungent odor.

3 Add the soy sauce, water and laurel leaves. Simmer on low heat and pork and chicken are cooked through and tender.

4 Remove from the and separate the chicken and pork from the sauce. Set the pan aside. Place the chicken and make sure that the pork is in one layer only. Saute the 1 tablespoon garlic and fry the chicken and pork until just a bit dry. Set aside.

RICE

1 Fry the sauce with cooked rice. Appetizer the rice on a 12 x 12 inch sheet of foil.

2 Add generous helping of the adobo pieces on the rice.

3 Take 3 ends of the foil towards the center and fold over twice. Double fold both of the ends to create a foil packet. Bake for 10 minutes in a 350°F oven. For packets into a plastic container and carry anywhere!

PINOY PIZZA WRAP

Here's an easy-to-eat pizza snack for kids and kids-at-heart

4 8-inch flour tortillas
Lucky Filipino-style spaghetti sauce or any cream and spicy sales
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
12 olives, sliced
1 small green pepper, diced

1 Fold a piece of aluminum foil in half. The foil should be large enough when folded to enclose 1 flour tortillas. Insert the tortillas between the halves of the folded foil. Fold the edges closed to seal the packet. Fry in a medium heat toaster oven for 2 minutes or until softened.

2 Take out the tortillas and line with the spaghetti sauce or salsa. Cut as 1 slice of salami and spread evenly over the tortilla. Sprinkle cheese and green pepper evenly over the sauces. Roll up the tortillas enclosing the filling.

3 Place each filled tortilla diagonally in the center of a sheet of foil. Wrap pizza by folding the top and sides of the foil over the tortillas as roll each foil into around the center of the foil and twist ends closed. Place inside a high-heat toaster oven. Bake for 5 to 10 minutes. Enjoy this hearty snack on the road!

Reynolds Wrap Aluminum Foil

Book of food products, from Dumaguete's . . .

From page C1

asked for a list of Otop products. It's for sale at P500 each but is worth the price because it's a handsome book with great pictures. It's made by Lucia Ong who invested 11 months of her short-term food-shoot long ago because they made interesting packaging for some of the displays.

Still, my friend said there were products in the book that weren't showcased. That's understandable because it does take a lot of money to budget transporting products and personnel and then paying for the booth. But having a book like this should make it easier for many producers because their specialties can be highlighted through great photographs. No need for physical presence. Besides, there are certain details in those interested can just call or e-mail. Of course, there will be no on-the-sales but participants aren't looking for shoppers but business buyers.

Looking through the pages, I saw some familiar products—Bohe's Bo' Bolocalay sauce and mustard, Camiguin's Ylandia yogurt, Silliman Hotel's Cassiopeia Bay Resort's Cassiopeia Bay Resort's Cassiopeia Bay Resort

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Potato 'bibingka'—and other 'Pinoy na Pinoy na potato'

POTATO Bibingka Espesyal

Go beyond French fries. 13 chefs whip up new dishes

POTATO Pinupot

By Kangkee Baga-Bayan

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH POTATOES ASIDE FROM French fries?

The question was posed to 13 chefs from different restaurants and hotels, who in turn took on the challenge and came up with gourmet sizzling dishes using frozen potatoes.

The culinary showdown, dubbed "Potato Inferno Recipe Challenge: Fries in Fiery to Forno," was held last week at the activity Center of Old South. Edwin The Khoe, Organizer by the United Starch Potato Board (USPB) with the US Department of Agriculture and Synergy Asia, is aimed to bring US frozen potatoes closer to the Filipino diet.

"Because of the rising prices of rice, wheat, and corn worldwide, there is great concern over the risk of food shortages," said Rob Fitzgerald Ozuk, Synergy Asia vice president for marketing and business development. "Globally, interest is warning to an age-old crop that could help address the food crisis—the potato. It is the world's number one non-grain food commodity which can be used as food anytime."

Filipinos are said to be huge consumers of frozen potatoes, especially after the finished boom. Ozuk said the Philippines is the largest market for US potatoes in Southeast Asia, and is the seventh largest destination for US frozen potato exports.

LIZA Decena, potato challenge grand prize winner

Stockservice sales are currently valued at approximately 10 billion, increasing by an estimated 15-20 percent per year in the past decade," said Ozuk.

Because they have more flair, standard up in frozen potatoes, Filipinos can satisfy a craving to any the body way easy to extend for-

RENE Lechuga, first runner-up

ward to Filipino dishes.

The 13 challengers used mashed potatoes, half-shell potatoes, potato skin, wedges and hash browns.

Grand prize winner Liza Decena of Amadeo's Restaurant presented Potato Pinupot, a spicy dish of tiger prawns cooked in coconut milk with potato wedges and shrimp paste and garnished with tomato blossom. Decena bagged P25,000 worth of gift certificates from Grandvis.

EDITHA Singian, second runner-up

Second placer Rene Lechuga, also of Amadeo's, showed off Potato Bibingka Espesyal, a native dessert of mashed potato and rice flour with potato sauce and coconut cream and capped by coconut macapuno on banana. He won P20,000 worth of gift certificates from Grandvis.

Editha's ng Dancia Edible Singian placed third for her Guinumang Hipon or Bangka at Tamales, which used frozen half-shells filled with shrimps and vegetables and topped with oregano and chili leaves. The Tamales had mashed potatoes and shrimp sauce wrapped in rubber banana leaves. The recipe earned Singian P15,000 worth of gift

POTATO D2

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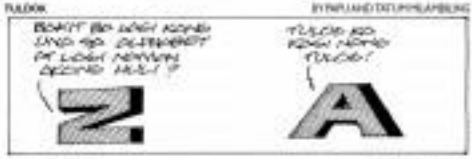

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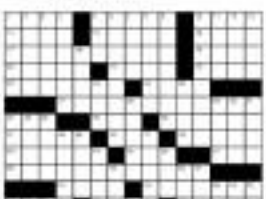
DAILY CROSSWORD

By Mel F. Engfehling
Huntington Beach, CA



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

By Dana Cleaver

	8	4			3			
3			7			9		
6			2	5			8	
	6	7						8
		9				3		
2						7	5	
	4			3	7			5
		6			1			7
			6			8	1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Answer to previous puzzle

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5	8	3	4	9	1	6	7	2
1	2	9	7	6	3	8	5	4
3	6	8	1	5	2	9	4	7
7	5	4	3	8	9	2	6	1
1	9	5	6	4	7	3	2	8
9	3	7	2	1	6	4	8	5
6	5	2	8	3	4	7	1	9
8	4	1	9	7	5	2	3	6

Potato 'bibingka'—and other 'Pinoy na Pinoy na potato'

By Lourdes Ilustre

certificates here (sounds!).

Other challengers included Alain Bonnemaison (Highland Steakhouse), Christin Castillo (Tagaytay Highlands/International Chef Club), Shawn Dimalig (Tagaytay Highlands), Jessamhen Bebita (Tagaytay Highland), Arlene Eales (Tagaytay Highland), Albert Franco (Godfy's Fine Noodles 'N' Bar), Georgie Farlas (Discovery Suites), Renan Iglesias (Discovery Suites), Carlos Ibabe (Lawyer), and Judges Casimiro (Discovery Suites). They all received certificates of participation from the US Potato Board.

Winners were chosen based on their creativity, innovation, taste, presentation and adherence to the Pinoy theme. Judges were David Wolfe, USDA agricultural attaché, and chef Thad Gajewski, members of the USDA Council of Chefs and Executive Chefs Association of the Philippines.

GUINATAANG Hipon sa Bangka at Tamales

(L/DDES chef Thad Gajewski and David Wolfe, USDA agricultural attaché

Winners were announced at the Singapaduy Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Arts (SIHCA).

During the competition, it was announced that 2008 has been declared the International Year of the Potato by the United Nations. This helps raise awareness of the key role played by the "humble tuber" in agriculture, the economy and world food security.

Potato is rich in vitamins C and B6. It is also one of the most concentrated sources of potassium, even more than bananas, oranges, and mushrooms. Contrary to popular beliefs, frozen potatoes contain the same amount of nutritional value and health benefits as fresh potatoes. Freezing does not diminish vitamin level as nutrients are immediately sealed within.

Try these winning recipes at home:

Potato Bibingka Especial

(Diane Lechuga, Arambol's, first runner-up)

Batter:
150 g mashed potato
½ c water
20 g dec flour
Pinch iodized salt
25 g white sugar
1 pc egg
½ tbsp clarified butter
½ tsp baking powder
Topping:
½ pc salted egg
15 g young coconut
20 g kesong puti
5 g butter
Syrup Sauce:
25 ml condensed milk
10 ml fresh milk
½ tsp lemon zest
½ tsp lemon juice
Coconut Cream:
5 ml whipped cream
5 ml coconut milk
Bukayo Cups:
100 g coconut
30 g sugar

To make the batter, preheat oven to 340°C. Mix all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Pour mixture on a greased baking pan and carefully arrange the toppings. Place butter inside oven for approximately 20 minutes.

For the syrup sauce, boil a whole can of condensed milk in a sauce pot full of water for two hours to attain same consistency. Add zest, lemon juice and fresh milk to add flavor and to make it smooth.

For the coconut cream, heat cream and coco milk separately till foamy or it doubles in volume. Once each has been whipped combine both mixtures.

To make the bukayo cups, simply caramelize the sugar then add the coconut, stir till thick but not too thick.

Potato Pinangat

(Lilia Dacuno, Arambol's Restaurant, grand prize winner)

2 k Brown wedge potatoes
½ k onion, coarsely chopped
250 g shitake paste
500 g coconut cream, thick
2 tsp iodized salt
½ tsp white pepper
40 pc taro leaves, big
4 tsp vegetable oil
Sauce:
1 l coconut milk, thin
20 g fresh turmeric, chopped
30 g chili finger
2 tsp iodized salt
½ tbsp granulated sugar
Garnish:
80 pc dried banana blossoms

Pre-pregnant, sauté onion and shitake paste in oil under low fire till onions have sweat. Add potatoes. Continue to cook till potatoes are heated through.

Pour coconut cream into the pan with the mixture and slowly bring to a boil. Simmer for a few minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside to cool.

Divide the simmered potato mix into the taro leaves and wrap the inside. Set aside till serving.

For the sauce, mix together coconut milk, finger chili and turmeric in a saucepan. Bring mixture to a boil and simmer for four hours for five minutes. Put the potato wrapped in taro leaves mixture in the sauce and let it cook till the leaves are tender and cooked through.

Strain the cooked taro leaves from the sauce and set it aside. As for the sauce, let it reduce more to attain desired consistency. Season with salt and pepper.

Place the cooked pinangat on the serve of a large dinner plate and pour the sauce over it. Garnish the dish with fried banana blossoms. Serve while hot.

Guinataang Hipon sa Bangka at Tamales

(Odilia Singian, Kalderos ng Dasmariñas, 2nd runner-up)

16 pc US brown half shells
Sautéed baby lobster
Vegetable filling
Guinataang hipon sauce
Kuning rice
Tamales

Method of preparation:

To make vegetable filling, mix together 2 tbsp diced carrots, 2 tbsp diced red bell pepper, 2 tbsp diced celery, 2 tbsp diced cucumber, 2 tbsp diced squash, 2 tbsp diced ripe mango, 2 tbsp diced red onion (optional), 2 tbsp tarragon vinegar, 2 tbsp olive oil, 1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley or dill weeds and salt and pepper to taste.

To make guinataang hipon in a saucepan, bring to a boil 1 c coconut cream (first extract) with ½ tsp fresh tamarind juice, 1 tbsp chopped shallots, 1½ tbsp minced garlic, 2 pc finger chilis, 2 pc calamansi (kalamansi) and ½ c pepperleaves, ½ tsp salt and pepper. Stir constantly till thick. Add ½ k hipon sashe (deveined and shelled) and ½ c sliced alagaw tops or all leaves. Cook further until cooked.

To make tamales with frozen mashed pancit and guinataang hipon sabe: in a pan, toast 300 g rice flour until lightly golden. Off heat, mix 1 sachet of Knorr Pancit Bihon Mix, 1 c muscovado sugar and 1½ c coconut milk. Cook until thick over low heat, stirring constantly to prevent sticking and burning. Add 1 c of frozen mashed pancit and ½ c guinataang hipon sabe. Continue cooking over low heat to mix well. In greased muffin cups, arrange slices of smoked chicken, ham and hard-boiled egg. Fill with tamales mixture. Or, wrap in salted banana leaves. Steam for one hour.

To assemble: Fry frozen half shells for two minutes. Line shells with baby lettuce leaves. Fill with vegetable filling then top with slices of kesong puti and guinataang hipon. Arrange on serving plate and garnish with sprouts or Knorr ketchup as paddles. Serve with tamales.

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Filipino's Napa wine earns raves

Corte Riva has been consistently praised by powerful critic Robert Parker

By Jay Labrador
Contributor

STEVEN CORTEZ, WHO, WITH HIS husband Lawrence, owns Corte Riva winery in Napa, California, recently visited Manila, and the Cedric Mendiola-led Grassroots Registration of the Chinese Restaurant held a dinner at Cafe Ysabel to showcase her wines.

Both Steven and Lawrence were originally from Bicol, but went to the US in the '70s to seek their fortune there. While Steven's cousin, salesmaker Rena and Bianca, they have been making wines under the Corte Riva label (derived from their names, Cortez and Rivera) since 2002.

I asked Steven why the Corte Riva label sported a Chinese jar. I thought it would be a fitly involved and convoluted explanation but, as in most things, the reason was simple and rather mundane.

For several months, the partners had been having great difficulty agreeing what to put on the label. One evening, things came to a boil, even to the point of a shouting match. After everyone had cooled down, they decided to continue discussion the next day.

On the way out of the Steven's house, Rommel saw the huge Chinese vase Steven and Lawrence had in their living room. Lawrence agreed to the cost of the vase and suggested they put a picture of the vase on the label. Everyone agreed instantly and that is why they have a Chinese jar on the label.

Corte Riva doesn't own vineyards, so the Cortezes buy their grapes from growers throughout Napa and the surrounding areas. The wines are vinified using the facilities of Wilde Mountain Vineyards where both Lawrence and Rommel also work as Cellarmaster and Assistant Winemaker, respectively.

Their experience at Wilde and other wineries has served them well in producing their own wines, so much so that the powerful wine critic Richard Parker has been consistent in his praise of their wines.

In honor of their Filipino roots, a Filipino-inspired dinner was crafted by chef Gene Gonzalez to complement the wines.

Sip tour

Corte Riva Viognier 2006—A barrel sample not yet released. Full, rich, silky honey-sweetness. Very nice, flowery nose. There is just the barest hint of the Viognier grape's bitterness on the long finish. Very good. In general, I'm not a fan of Viognier as I find that the flowery aromas don't make up for the rather acidic and bitter notes. Corte Riva's Viognier would make a convert of me yet. An excellent partner for the Crab with Kiwang Puti and Pomelo Relleno.

Cab's Rita Cabernet Franc 2006—Mint, chocolate and fragrant wood. Caramel. A bit of oakiness belongs to the cask. Good grape goodness. Corte Riva's Viognier would make a convert of me yet. An excellent partner for the Crab with Kiwang Puti and Pomelo Relleno.

Cab's Rita Cabernet Franc 2006—Mint, chocolate and fragrant wood. Caramel. A bit of oakiness belongs to the cask. Good grape goodness. Quite featured and ready to drink as it's ough some more ups might lengthen the oak better. Finishes long but a touch oaky.

Corte Riva Merlot 2006—Slightly hot, spicy wine. Quite soft. Bitter chocolate. Good fruit. Ripe, lightly wound, accessible and easy drinking. Perfect with meaty texture. Deserves time or a few more years bottle age.

Both the Cabernet Franc and the Merlot were paired with an exceptionally tender Kalderetang Kambing chunk.

An intermission of sweet sorbet with a splashing of ice cut was served before the next course arrives. This was a great bit at our table as the tension between sweet, sour and salty played out wonderfully on the palate.

With venison

Next on the menu was an excellent roast venison with a hint unfinished glaze. With this did we savor the

CHEF Gene Gonzalez of Cafe Ysabel

STEVEN Cortez, owner of Corte Riva Vineyards

chewy, giving the chocolate every earthy character. Definitely not for wimpies, but I thought it worked rather well.

Steven liked it so that she asked for several pieces she could take back to the US and present to the Chicarelli people.

Since Corte Riva does not have its own dessert wine, we were also given a taste of Pride's Michelle de Virginie: a semi-vintage dessert wine in a rather Germanic, high acid style to balance the intense powder sweetness. Very good but rather expensive. As employees of Pride, both Lawrence and Rommel ate had a hand in producing this wine.

After most of the guests had gone, Steven had one more bottle up his sleeve: a barrel sample of:

Corte Riva Syrah 2006—Tobacco leaf, dried herbs, quite smooth. No grip and a bit lethal. Even Steven was puzzled by how poorly this was developing. Possibly a bad batch. Hopefully most flaws in the barrel or bottle will turn this into something more interesting.

As Steven had not been home to the "H," as she put it, in a long time, she was pleasantly surprised by the dining and wine scene and the great reception given to her wines. She has great plans, as we all do, or if she can't make it, hopefully Lawrence can be in town early next year for what will hopefully be a yearly event.

Top fast-food chain looks back to 30 jolly years

JOLLIBEE TURNED 30 A small ice cream parlor in Quezon City in the '70s. Its founder was Tony Tan Caktiong, a Chemical Engineering graduate of ITC. Today, it's the country's top fast-food chain, with branches abroad. Celebrating this year its 30th anniversary, Jollibee offers 30 "jolly facts" about the well-loved company. Here are 20 of them.

1. Jollibee's "Free Pc" centerfunfillment, flavorful food, fun atmosphere, flexibility in catering to customer needs, and focus on families.

2. In 2000, Jollibee was named Most Admired Company in the Philippines by Asian Business Magazine.

3. The winning "Langhap-Sarap" burger recipe was developed by the family of Jollibee chairman and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong.

4. Jollibee employs over 40,000, while providing income opportunities to hundreds of entrepreneurs, its suppliers.

5. Jollibee has revolutionized Philippine food service with its unprecedented success in franchising. Its first franchisee is in Yangzalle Street in Santa Cruz, Manila. There are now over 300 franchised stores.

6. The late Prince "Mang Pitong" Hamper was Jollibee's first employee. He served in various capacities and gave inspiring talk to new Jollibee employees, even after his retirement in 1995.

7. Items that have been available since Jollibee's start, such as Jolly Spaghetti, Regular Fries and Chickenjoy, remain its core products. Yumburger was first served in 1981, followed by Champ Burger in 1984. Other top hosts such as Jollibee Hamonado, Jollibee Steak, Shanghai, Jolly Meals and Peach Mango Pie were introduced from 1989 to the early '90s.

8. Jollibee's commissary the biggest in Southeast Asia, has over 600 workers and operates 24/7.

9. The chain was initially named "Jollibee," then changed to "Jolly Bee." It later returned to the original and has stuck with it since.

10. Tony Tan Caktiong knew he had a winner when his kids always chose to eat Jollibee spaghetti instead of

11. Two of the most memorable Jollibee TV ads, "Ligaw" and "Lola," were directed by the late Chanukkah Edward Bravo.

12. Jollibee Mascot Mascot redesigned a few times, while remaining character into the Jollibee figure we know now. He donned color swatches to celebrate, who painted the colors that appealed most to them.

13. The current lineup of Jollibee characters reflects contemporary times and the Jollibee menu, likely is the group's geeky cheerleader. Twinkle is the ever-stylish fashionista. Yum is the enthusiastic gadget guy. Hope is an outgoing athlete.

14. Joseph Joaquin, the first Jollibee, has trained hundreds of actors since 1982. Each performer is expected to learn to play Jollibee and another character.

15. There are about 280 Jollibee mascot performances and appearances a week in Metro Manila alone. The number jumps to 600 performances a day during the Christmas season.

16. Before Aga Muhlach, Jollibee's celebrity endorsers were Gary Valenciano, Carmina Villaroel, Rhoda Intsiong, Coco Martin, Dennis Roth, Vina Morales and Orange Grau.

17. Jollibee won the Grand Award, the local publication industry's equivalent of the Oscar Awards, for its child empowerment program "Kaya Mo 'Yan!" in 1996.

18. A month before Muhlach became Jollibee's celebrity endorser, he requested those who wished to attend a fan taping of his old sitcom to bring toys for poor kids. Nine responded. Surprisingly, and the idea was later embraced by Jollibee. The annual "MaPapa ang Pasko" toy drive.

19. For Malaysian and Brunei customers, Jollibee crews devised provided a Malay version of chicken curry and Nasi Lemak (a combination of spicy stir-fried kangkong and chili, rice cooked in coconut milk, anchovies (fish), cucumber and a hard-boiled egg).

20. Jollibee's first international store opened in Taiwan in 1986. Texas Luau. Jollibee opened in Hong Kong's Central District and had to face an overwhelming 8,000 customers, who lined up for 150 meters on every Sunday.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Ernnie G. Velarde

DID YOU KNOW...

Certified hit in Asia

HONG KONG—JOHN WOO'S HISTORICAL EPIC "RED CLIFF" opened strongly in Asia, earning $26 million in China, Taiwan, the Japanese and South Korea since its debut Thursday. The Hong Kong auteur's return to Chinese language film also beat "Hancock" and "Kung Fu Panda" to the weekend box-office in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Based on a famous battle in third-century China, "Red Cliff" is Woo's first Chinese film after a 16-year stint in Hollywood. AP

Lea, the couch critic, shares her notes on the reality talent search phenomenon. Backstory/ E3

NADIMACTIVE Saga Project is one of nine reasons why the independent label Terno Recordings matters. Page 2

Foreign programmers: RP film scene exciting

Cinemalaya guests from Berlin, Jakarta, Rotterdam and Toronto festivals observe that local cinema is booming

By Boyet Son Diego Jr.

FOREIGN FESTIVAL PROGRAMMERS, who are in Manila for the 4th Cinemalaya Film Festival, told Inquirer Entertainment that Philippine cinema looks "exciting, energetic."

Jacquie Vega screened that, while screening DVDs for the Berlin International Film Festival in 2005, he noticed there were three Filipino movies on his co-worker's list—Jeffrey Jeturian's "Sang Maglalakbay ni Mauro Oliveros" and "Tuli" and Raya Martin's "The Island at the End of the World."

"As part of my job, I watch at least 1,000 films a year," Vega explained. "That those three films stood out could only mean that there must be something going on in the Philippines."

His theory was "confirmed" when he arrive in Manila last year for Cinemanila, an international film festival. "I was amazed. The local scene was thrilling, energetic, different, [I found] a broad spectrum of films."

Raymond Phathanavirangoon of the Toronto Film Fest agreed: "I was impressed by this year's Cinemalaya entries. Even though some of them are first-timers, there's a lot of talent and passion in their works. Filipino cinema is definitely one of the most exciting in Southeast Asia."

He reported that there will be more than one RP film in Toronto this year. The Res

Foreign programmers . . .

announced officially was Inside Monsters's Serbia."

Manila Hermaya Robles of Hikoto Film Fest told the wire interested in being home "host" of Filipino films. "We're building a Southeast Asian section in our festival."

Hebran described the local scene as "fascinating," like an explosion. "Digital technology has made filmmaking feasible here, but what is unique is the spirit. It's not just our passion. It's a collective community of filmmakers making things happen."

She recalled that several filmmakers had urged her to watch Mouseire Jhaoumi and Mario Gerogis's "Big Time," a winner in the first Cinemanila in 2005. "I found that even though the humor is [culture] specific, I could relate to it."

Gerijan Zulfiel of the Amsterdam Film Fest canvassed that a good movie crosses borders.

Storytellers' goldmine

He picked Shemaker Lee Hi as an example. "It can be challenging to watch a 10-hour movie, but no one else could have done that."

He pointed out that the Philippines is "not a cliff avatary. The political situation is a goldmine for storytellers."

Gone Mon Tester of PEPSICI (International Federation of Film Critics) opined that digital technology has allowed "young filmmakers to do movies that most producers wouldn't allow them to make."

"A cinematic explosion," said Ethics of Bodhi's Asian Hot Shots festival called the local "phenomenon." That even 40 Filipino movies were showcased at the 6th Festival Paris Cinema recently proves his point, he said.

"If numbered correctly," he said, "a Filipino film could find an audience elsewhere—in the Ishtiaq Jaradan's 'Bobcocks' in Europe."

E-mail: bayanmoro@gmail.com

SATISFIED GUESTS. Seated from L-Joel Ferrin, programmer, Asian Hot Shots Film Festival Berlin; Raymond Phadnavis organizer, programmer, Asian Cinema of the Tromso International Film Festival; Gerijan Zulfiel, programmer, Rotterdam International Film Festival; Back row, from L, Amgar Yogi, programmer, International Forum of New Cinema of the Berlin International Film Festival; Max Tessier, president of NETPAC Pr exec; Manny Hermaya Robles, founder, Jakarta International Film Festival. PHOTO BY CESS VILLANUEVA

AT THE CINEMAS

	1	2	3	4
GLORIETTA 1	JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	THE DARK KNIGHT	WANTED	THE DARK KNIGHT
GLORIETTA 4	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT	
	HANCOCK	JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	THE DARK KNIGHT	MAMMA MIA
GREENBELT 1	MAMMA MIA	THE DARK KNIGHT		
GREENBELT 3	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT		
	MAMMA MIA	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT		
	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT	MAMMA MIA	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT	MAMMA MIA	JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH
MARKET! MARKET!	THE DARK KNIGHT	HANCOCK		
	MAMMA MIA	THE DARK KNIGHT	JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	
TRINOMA	HANCOCK	THE DARK KNIGHT	JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH	MAMMA MIA
	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT	THE DARK KNIGHT	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD EXPO July 17 & 18: Glorietta Activity Center
Greenbelt	HEAVEN EXHIBIT July 1-17, Greenbelt 1 Lobby
Alabang Town Center	Artists: Gary V. Live! July 26: 4pm; Activity Center
Ayala Center Cebu	WORLD VISION EXHIBIT July 1-15: Rotunda
Market! Market!	GREAT LAKES CAR SHOW July 17-20: Central Plaza
Ayala Museum	HERITAGE: "The perfect spot for romantic engagement & corporate events" is now accepting bookings for June to July 2008 For inquiries & bookings, pls. call 757-7437 or 757-3041
Tri-Noma	Automatic Center Appliance Fair July 7-31: Trifecta Activity Center Resto Rhythms July 23 & 30: 7pm-9pm; Level 1, Plaza area

A couch critic's notes on the reality talent search

GENUINE REALITY SHOWS ARE homosexuals!

Me, this will be a comparison of "Pinoy Dream Academy" from Indonesia and "Pinoy Idol" from Fremantle.

By now we are all familiar with the format: A group of hopefuls with a dream... a team of judges who will praise and/or criticize each performance on Saturday night... and a Sunday department sneaks more and grandfully skinned good-byes. The only difference is that PDA has in-house coaches and vocalists.

What does this author have to say about said contest?

'Idol' jumble

First, allow me to admit that I am an "American Idol" junkie, foolishly watching episode after episode and, whenever I'm in the US, voting for my favorites. This year, I was home in Manila for much of the competition so I caught only so many live performances of Season 7 (Jordin Sparks, nevertheless, playing couch coats. I'd probably be more able to fit once Cowell, with his sharp tongue and brutal assessments... he's the one thing that keeps me watching every season.

Sunday before last, I didn't wonder of that PDA or "Pinoy Idol," but I did get some of the dirt eventually, at dinner with my brother-in-law and his wife. She had seen bits and pieces of that Sunday's "Pinoy Dream Academy," including videotaped reactions of the celebrity who were skewered by Gerard Pathe's nine of the judges). One shed to-phone texts after he ripped her apart with his "sarcastic, unkind and perverse" critiques, and another muttered invectives under her breath because of his

BACKSTORY

Lira Salongga

obvious dislike of her easy interpretation of a song that was decidedly not easy.

Let me tell you right now, he's not going to get any more... unless he sees someone truly stellar performances.

To be honest, I don't like watching a judge be super nice and happy-sweet. That's kind of a rip-out, and not necessarily an accurate reflection of how the

> If you're unable to stomach harsh criticism, it's best to stay home and sing for your family

real world can be. If you're a singer and you're unable to stomach a harsh criticism of your performance, then you better avoid going for your family who will applaud you and scream up for you, no matter what. Besides talent and stage presence, it's necessary to be equipped with a strong stomach and a level head in order to take all those things with a grain (or even a bucket) of salt.

Clue in the critique

So, in the words for sum of summation on those shows, a piece of advice from someone who's been performing longer than any of you have been alive: Take each piece of criticism in stride, no matter how harsh or unkind it'll seem at first. There will be a clue in that critique as to how you can improve your performance for the following week.

For example, if a judge was averse to your song choice, take the time to think about the reason. Was the song right for your range? Did you totally miss the mark on interpretation?

Pay it forward

Figure out who you are and where your voice lies... have an intensive conversation and work session with your coach... be completely objective about your abilities... and go from there. Don't expect to go from zero to hero in a week... this truly takes time— there are no instant results. But the expect to commend improvement. Those judges—and the audiences— will take notice.

Don't take it personally, as difficult as that can be.

And to the judges, my own two cents: Be honest. You owe it to the contestants to give it to them straight. It won't do any of them any good for you to say yes to everyone. Some singing institution you may have to deliver. At some point in your own careers, you were turned down at it as well, and lived to tell the tale. So pay it forward, and let a new generation of performers feel your brand of tough love.

You've already proven to be generous with positive when it's absolutely appropriate... and I know first hand that you're all very nice people.

Break a leg, everyone... this couch-critic will be watching.

CHEER FACTOR

CHRISTOPHER CICCONE, AUTHOR OF "Life with my Sister Madonna," on MTV Television, on the famous singer: "Despite everything else, she's still a Catholic girl." AFP

M M T A MOVIE GUIDE

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Wrong page file

"Ellingsberg had no problem with the fact that he does not play the title role. Heard not ja ele eye. For that he was most admired."

RICHARD GUTIERREZ

Richard Gutierrez is the network's surprise ace, Celestino said.

"He made his mettle in this genre with the success of 'Malimelo,' 'Lupid' and 'Kamandag.' If there's an action-themed show, we automatically give it to Richard," Celestino said. Richard is the lead actor of the network's newest TV series, "Codename: Asero."

Celestino said Richard "practically grew up with GMA 7. "That was why kahit young pagsuot nya sa harapan, pagsuot niya. At one point, he was told to clean up like a girl in one of his soaps or shows. We made him play supporting roles in a few drama shows. He heard no complaints from him."

Celestino counts, too, "With hard work and diligence, Richard was able to find his niche in this industry."

HEART EVANGELISTA

Being out of work for quite a while changed Heart Evangelista, said Celestino.

"The has become appreciative of the fact that she was tapped by GMA 7 to play major roles in the shows that it's producing. He was less overzealous now in acting, that's a professional."

A talent of ABS-CBN since she joined show 'Im in' 2001, Heart recently moved to GMA 7. Her first Kapuso project was to play the role of bully character Emily Tan Jones in "Codename: Asero." The actress is also expected to play the lead in the local remakes of a popular foreign novels.

"There are actors that I would readily let go, but these talents, for me, every thing is keep," Celestino said, adding, in jest, "Baka sabi pa sila ng ako."

Email movieinfo@inquirer.com.ph

OPENING TODAY

The Dark Knight

Stars: Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart, Maggie Gyllenhaal

Directed by: Christopher Nolan

After meeting the Caped Crusader's origin in "Batman Begins," Nolan follows it up with a "thoughtful character study" Gotham's misguided mob bosses turn to a maniacal criminal, the Joker (Ledger), to their fight against the man (Bale). Peter Travers of Rolling Stone agrees. "Haunting and visionary ... [it] scares on the deepest level possible. Full of surprises." Justin Chang of Variety describes it as "an ambitious, full-blooded crime epic of gratifying scope and moral complexity." Think of a comic book Sopranos.

Directed by
Baby Barredo & Joy Virata

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Makati City

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or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph

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GALLERIA

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2 THE DARK KNIGHT	7 THE DARK KNIGHT
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4 HANCOCK	9 KAMBYO
5 MAMMA MIA!	10 WANTED

ERMITA

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3 THE DARK KNIGHT	7 THE DARK KNIGHT
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5 THE DARK KNIGHT	9 WANTED Indistinct: MARIPOSA

METRO EAST

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4 MAMMA MIA!	8 THE WARLORDS

NOVALICHES

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2 HANCOCK	5 THE DARK KNIGHT
3 MAMMA MIA!	6 MY MONSTER MOM

PIONEER

1 THE DARK KNIGHT	3 HANCOCK
2 MAMMA MIA!	4 JOURNEY to the CENTER of the EARTH

STA. ROSA

1 THE DARK KNIGHT	
2 MAMMA MIA!	
3 HANCOCK	
4 THE DARK KNIGHT	
5 ALONE	

LIPA

1 THE DARK KNIGHT	
2 THE DARK KNIGHT	
3 MAMMA MIA!	
4 ALONE	
5 MAMMA MIA!	

DASMARINAS

1 THE DARK KNIGHT	
2 MAMMA MIA!	
3 THE DARK KNIGHT	
4 THE DARK KNIGHT	

IMUS

1 THE DARK KNIGHT	
2 MAMMA MIA!	
3 HANCOCK	
4 THE DARK KNIGHT	

ANGELES

1 THE DARK KNIGHT	3 THE DARK KNIGHT
2 MAMMA MIA!	4 ALONE

STARMILLS

1 THE DARK KNIGHT	4 WANTED
2 THE DARK KNIGHT	5 HANCOCK
3 MAMMA MIA!	6 MY MONSTER MOM

BACOLOD

1 THE DARK KNIGHT	
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6 WANTED	

ILOILO

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4 JOURNEY to the CENTER of the EARTH	
5 WANTED	
6 HANCOCK	

Music News

Brit-Fil band in England fest

A BRITISH-FILIPINO BAND INSIRE Hitchhikers has landed in the regional semi-finals of the Starbox Underground Festival in England.

The event, said to be the largest of its kind, brings together the first-ever shortlist of the UK music industry and attracts more than 6,000 bands from southern England alone.

Hitchhikers is composed of Jon Mayhak (lead vocals, guitar), Andrew Reilly (on Chinese one), Joel Billington (bass).

Formed in the UK a year ago, the band says it was influenced by BOYZ and the Bed Hot Chili Peppers, among others. "Our songs usually have a line or two in Filipino," says Jon. Hitchhikers's song writer whose mother is Filipino.

The band is set to shoot a music video with Pinoy Explorers director of Bayleaf, "Pwedeng-usa" and "Ito Ba Aang" videos, and release a single in time for a promotional tour in March or April.

Visit www.thehitchhikers.com or call 771 0145.

Amy's aborted session

Mark Ronson, the British DJ and record producer who won three Grammys for his work with Amy Winehouse, has aborted last recording session for the title song of the upcoming movie Sex and the City.

The not sure Amy is ready to work on such yet," Ronson was quoted to have said. It's been rumored that Leona Lewis will replace Winehouse on the Bond song.

MTV Asia Awards

The all-male hip hop dance group Mechanicdum, pop R&B singer-songwriter Leona Lewis, alternative rock bands OneRepublic, Jimmy at the Shins, and The Script, Korean boy band Super Junior and power-pop group The Click Five are performing as guest artists at the 2008 MTV Asia Awards to be held on Aug. 2 at the arena of the Stars in Genting, Malaysia.

Of the awards' 16 categories, 10 will be determined by MTV viewers' votes for the Favorite Artist.

Okinawa, Sandwich, Sponge Cola and Urbandub are nominated in the Favorite Artist Philippines category. Log on to the official website www.mtvasiaawards.com to vote. Voting ends on August 1.

Free download card

FM radio station Magic 89.9 is giving away a free download card of Gazebo's special version of its song "I Like Chopin."

Dubbed as the "Internet Random Encoded Account Issue" system, the track was previewed last week at DP Uniheaven.com.

Tune in to Magic 89.9 for the whole month of July or visit www.magic899.com.ph/promotions.

Email jcruz@philippinestar.com.ph

A David amid industry Goliaths

By Pachelo Concepcion

Age-old trade practices prevent bright new songs from being heard on radio

TOTI Dalmacion: "Artists sometimes sacrifice their music just to sell."

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE AT THE HELM of the country's most prominent and musically diverse independent record label?

It's not easy, according to Toti Dalmacion, who owns Terno Recordings — home to Radioactive Sago Project (RSP), Up Dharma Down, Cambuy Mercado, Imaginary, Joshing, Jay Boombong Stylers, plus three new acts (Dominique, Modesto O and Sheepwalk Circus).

Admirable in size and operating without the machinery of the empire (Sony BMG, Warner, MCA), Terno is like a David battling the mammoth model. With CD sales at an all-time low and age-old industry practices of promoting records leaving little room for bright new songs to be heard on radio, it's a small miracle, indeed, that Terno has even survived.

For the past five years, Toti has been running what he calls a "fledgling" outfit on the level of passion one's supposed to be acquired from that small "more and pop" niche labels shroud that carried the movie in hood in much.

Music lovers

Born to a musically inclined clan, Toti, (officially RT), the only child of Tito Toti musician and Susan Garcia, found what his folks and relatives played at home and in gatherings. His mother is a sister of Dennis and Rene Garcia of Hotdog and, incidentally, managed the band in the 1970s.

Toti followed on his own to Top 40 radio, and was in grade 5 in Lourdes in Quezon City when he started busking and bringing his own country tapes of bubblegum-fusion artists, as the older guys in high school did. He used a lot about rock 'n' roll in Greece and Rolling Stone, and was intrigued by the emergence of such bands as The Clash, Sex Pistols, Ramones, Blondie and the rest of the punk and new wave era.

This was the turning point. Toti says. He validated his record-buying habits to include a slew of non-major from small labels. "My early favorites were Depeche Mode, Human League, Red Product, Stiff, Rockabilly, Bauhaus, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Cramps, Cocteau Twins and, of course, The Smiths. Then I developed my own eclectic collection; that I would put up my own label was inevitable."

When Toti returned home after living in the US, where he studied audio engineering, he set up Groove Station, a record shop that sold locally assembled albums on vinyl and CD. It morphed into an event company that promoted house and techno music, which he played as a recordgiving DJ. Insofar (2).

Then, he thought of compiling songs from assigned indie bands around the world for local and international sale. "One thing led to another," Toti says, "and Terno was born."

The label's first artist was Orange and Lemons, in time Toti thought it was just another '80s new wave-retro band and he based an album's worth of material which became the group's debut album. But the band got inspired and signed with a major label, Universal Records.

RSP came on board because its lead man, Lourd De Veyra, was formerly the editor of a lifestyle magazine where Toti was a record reviewer. One day Lourd asked him to manage the band. He agreed. "I thought Teebee Galorose was incredible and discovered Lourd's artistic wit and musical talent, and the rest, as they say, is much to write a one-liner joke," he recalls.

Artistic freedom

The rest of the bands came tucked with enthusiasm and the belief that Terno would fulfill their desire to exercise artistic freedom and flexibility. "I ended up managing them as well, except for a few that already had managers," Toti says. "But I think it's advantageous for the bands rather than label owner happens to be the manager as well."

Initially, Terno did everything. It processed and distributed the bands' CDs, its recording and packaging them. But since it lacked manpower, the company struck up a distribution deal with Viva Records, which solved the problem of making the albums available in the malls and other outlets nationwide.

Toti admits that Terno, like the major labels, is currently struggling with the worldwide trend of declining CD sales. So it no longer relies solely on traditional sources and the titles. He sees all of Terno artists' songs are now available on legal local downloading sites like Filipinum. "Also, it took Terno a while, but by September most of our releases should be available on iTunes US, Canada, UK, Europe, Australia, Japan, Amazon, Rhapsody and three more sites. That should make it easier for Filipinos everywhere and foreign fans to access our catalogue."

US template

He seems to have studied the local music scene well, because he has learned to adopt a practical attitude to his role as an indie player. He understands why the likes of Gary Valenciano pretended as he played by indie business practices. Bo Sisyounay is declining sales reports and imposing low royalty rates for artists.

"Actually it doesn't necessarily follow that the homes of local major labels are dishonest (for all we know, some bands might be honest and fair)," he says. "The industry itself is at fault, how it has been structured since it started 125 years ago in America. The local music business just used that template, as its academic base always been emulated, be it a local major player or multinational. In a sense, you can't really blame those bosses, from the time the music industry was born, it has always been about making money."

Toti is not a hypocrite to set sail to make money, too. But, he says, there's a difference in how he wants to earn it. "I want to balance art and commerce as opposed to doing it just for the money," he explains. "Terno has proven that artists respect and sacrifice their art for the sake of selling. We are in the richer number and we'd like it to see it grow. It's tough, but someone's got to do it to improve the state of local music in which the artists are but always keen to give the audience what they only know and want, what's tried, tested and safe. There's not much room for risk-taking or avant-garde stuff here, so Terno and its roster of artists are offering these options."

The good news, Toti confirms, is that overall Terno bands are selling well. Its biggest act, Up Dharma Down, has been featured in Time magazine and generated a 9,000 load enough for it to be considered to make a second album and maybe for a first-look plant.

Why indie producer signed these 9 bands

TOTI Dalmacion explains why he signed the following:

Radioactive Sago Project

"One of the country's most important bands because of Lourd's scathing observations on Pinoy culture, politics and humorous at times same time. The answer should listen to this instead of the formulaic pop and rock driven dime-promotion the airwaves. Intelligent, yet accessible, with broad appeal to boot."

CAMBUY MERCADO

Up Dharma Down

"It doesn't sound like anyone else. It is SO it's difficult to pigeonhole, with a cross-section of styles that make up its own sound, which set a higher benchmark for OPM, lyrically and musically. Truly a class act with a growing foreign following."

Cambuy Mercado

"The silver-haired valay I took in this band that has come home all over its songs. That's the beauty of being independent—I'm in control of what the label puts out. Cambuy, it's just pure sonority mental band. It's provocative and portentic, smiling and very funny, yet right with an explosive live stage presence."

Pinoysaurus

"Throw me one pa pop-rock, mo—

are too high-brow, but still with quality content. It doesn't hurt that it has a female entertainer who plays really well and sings, too— very charismatic front person."

Sweet

"One truly solo artist. Her vocal style is like The Sundays' Harriet Wheeler, she writes straightforward [lyrics] and melodies you can hum."

UP DHARMA Down

Musical Q: Sleepwalk Circus

"Probably the best representative of my original vision in terms of music: dreamy, trippy, guitar-oriented, post-punk sound akin to the '90s shoegazers or bands like Ride and Adorable."

Any Breaking Stylers

"A hot homebrew recording indie rock, but with diverse Filipino lyrics."

Dumbfoundead

"Excellent hardcore-esque underground with vocal harmonies and quality songs reminiscent of late '90s and early '00s acts like Fort Minor and '90s post punk/alternative acts like Young Healthy Green and Weezer."

Take it from Bo Cerrudo: Find a niche, perfect a routine

USEFUL TIP FOR PERFORMING artists: Find your niche and perfect your routine.

Singer Bo Cerrudo did, and now he is billed as a "premiere classical baritone," with a repertoire ful. bowling to hard-rap titles classic.

"I've toured the World" of the Captain's Star of the Mandalay On ended Manila a Bo's latest undercoming show dates Aug. 13, 14, Sept. 12, 13 Oct. 3, 4, and Nov. 14, 15.)

Bo watched on July 8 and got swept up in the moment — classic love songs not heard as often as they should be. Some of our top pedo "Bo

SHOW TIME

sand the Sea," "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "Maria Like Being in Love," "It Might Fall in London Town," "Some Women," "Yesterday I Heard the Rain," "This is My Beloved," "Tonight Rain Springtime," "I Have Dreamed."

Having seen previous incarnations of the show, we can say truthfully that Cerrudo's audience was even smoother now; his banter more lighter. It's clear he's made more comfortable with his material and his audience. And why not? There were mostly familiar faces — very likely repeat viewers like us.

That's another useful tip: Foster video perfect. And another: Try, at least as this one were, not to scrimp on production values. By "Love Around the World," Cerrudo is accompanied by the rhythm ensemble of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. Script and direction by Freddie Santos. Clever arrangements, perfectly suited to the singer's range and personality.

Avril Lavigne at the Big Dome

Canadian dynamic award-nominated rock singer Avril Lavigne returns to Manila for a one-night concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 5.

Avril Edward Lavigne's last three years ago as part of 2005's "Bonsai Tour" at the Ayo Bonifacio Open Field in Taguig City with pop-punk band Simple Plan. That time, she's riding on the stage with.

The show is billed as "The Best Damn Tour." She sings old hits and new tracks from her third-album album, "The Best Damn Thing." The album has spawned three singles — "When You're Gone," "Girlfriend" — which all went to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 Singles chart.

Call 911-0555.

Panic at the Disco at Araneta

The American rock band Panic at the Disco performs on Aug. 16 at the dynamic Coliseum. Formed in Las Vegas by childhood friends Ryan Ross (guitar) and Spencer Smith (drums), and later joined by Brendon Urie (vocals), the group has recorded two albums: The first, "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out," went platinum with the hit single "I Write Sins, Not Tragedies" which won the Video of the Year at the 2006 MTV Awards. Call 911-0555.

'Wanders' at Pagcor Theater

"Wanders," a display of skills and physical prowess, semblance of fearless daredevil and clever numbers, goes onstage Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at the Fingerlicious Grand Theater. Tickets are free for Diners and Players patrons with Invitations.

Gary V at the Music Museum

Gary Valenciano performs in a concert billed "He Lives" tonight and on July 30 and 31 at the Music Museum. The show's proceeds will go to the children of Typhoon Frank through the Operation Saving Foundation.

Tonight

• Cast of the Body Special, Silhouettes and Gang at Magnum. Call 920-2216.

• Showcasians Festival at Tio Bistro. Call 414-5907.

Tomorrow

• Goodbad at Mag-net

• The Jerks at Tio Bistro

Taking care of celeb problems

By Marinel R. Cruz

HOW DO THE KAPUSO NETWORK KEEP singer-actress Regine Velasquez, star of its top talents, from transferring to rival ABS-CBN?

"We kept her busy. We made her feel that she's needed," said Filmax Gabonada, GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment TV.

When Interim Entertainment visited Gabonada at the GMA 7 office in Quezon City last week, Gabonada revealed how she takes care of

HEART Evangelista: Being out of work for a while made her "appreciative."

top names more in her mind.

During this chat, the Kapuso boss let us in on the secret to her network Singalong Dreams' successful acting career. She also revealed that drama actor Dennis Trillo needed a reality-type makeover.

Lastly, Gabonada shared tips on how to keep top actors Robin Padilla and Richard Gutierrez happy and content with GMA 7.

Counter offers

News of Regine's transfer to rival network ABS-CBN is untrue as February. She was reportedly offered the lead section of the latter's soap, "Betty La Fea," plus a weekly musical variety show. The contract purportedly totaled P25 million. ABS-CBN denied the existence of such a contract.

"She almost said goodbye to us," Gabonada recalled. "I was stressed at the time. When I came back, I presented two offer to her, and the network presented a better one."

Regine eventually accepted the offer with an "Eto Sarimanok," the Filipino adaptation of the top-rating South Korean series. She is also set to host the 5th season reunion of the reality show "Celebrity Duets."

DENNIS TRILLO

Dennis Trillo made headlines last year after rumored girlfriend Cristine Reyes and female queens Gladys Reyes. The mother of his son Calix, figured in a public squabble over him.

"The issue is an issue problem to him (actor). It affected how the public perceived him as a person," said Gabonada. "We sat down with Dennis and endorsed a major makeover for him."

To Dennis, once known for his boy-next-door profession, now sports a brunger look in the drama series, Sikapatuloy."

"It's important for the artist to co-operate with the network," Gabonada stressed. Most Dennis, so, ever has picked up."

ROBIN "very passionate"

ROBIN PADILLA

Robin Padilla is a true-blue action star, Gabonada observed.

"He is very passionate about the image he has created for himself. This is why we always make sure his next project is better than the one that just ended," the network exec said.

Robin's action-adventure series "Tanggol Bwakin" aired its final episode last week. He is scheduled to work on the TV adaptation of another Cecile Z. Capone graphic novel, "Tony Boy." The actor is also set to star in another GMA Films production.

DINGDONG DANTES

"We are pleased with the way Dingdong successfully reinvented himself," said Gabonada.

Dingdong first joined the network as a member of an all-male dance group. He was with the youth-oriented series "TGIS" and was the host of a number of TV shows for GMA 7.

But everything changed when he played the role of Sergio Southfelder in the hotel romance-fantasy hit series, "Encantadia." According to Gabonada, Dingdong did so well in Sergio, that he is now regarded as one of local show biz's hottest leading men.

Dingdong currently plays Pedro, Marian Rivera's love interest in "Dyesebel."

"These shows wouldn't have been successful if he wasn't part of them," Gabonada said.

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DENNIS Trillo needed major image makeover.

GRAND OPENING TODAY

MTRCB RATED PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult